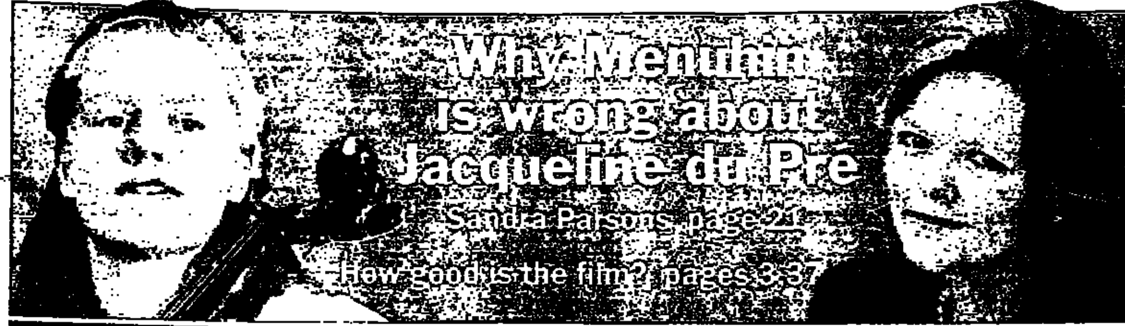
# THE TIMES

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Dangers of the stand-up sun-bed
page 20

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS: Today's token, page 26

'Too many leaders are carried out or kicked out...it is rare to leave on an upswing'

# Resignation surprise by Ashdown

By Philip Webster, political editor

PADDY ASHDOWN stunned Westminster last night by announcing that he will stand down as Liberal Democrat leader this summer after 11 years at the helm.

The move surprised and saddened his 45 MPs, who were informed at a private meeting at the Commons. It also sparked debate on a leadership battle, with Charles Kennedy, Simon Hughes and Nick Harvey emerging as front-runners last night.

The decision, of which the Prime Minister was informed well in advance, threw a question mark over cooperation between the parties of the Centre Left. Mr Ashdown and Mr Blair have been the driving forces behind the realignment of the Centre Left but Mr Ashdown has faced internal criticism for appearing too close to Mr Blair.

There was also speculation last night that Mr Ashdown may be retiring now because he has privately given up hope of a referendum on proportional representation before the next election.

Leadership candidates were urged not to begin campaigning until after the local, Scottish and Welsh elections in May and the European elections in June.

Until then, Mr Ashdown will remain in charge. Although the candidates may be cautious about Labour links. Mr Blair was reported to be relaxed about doing business with Mr Ashdown's successor. Mr Kennedy, 39, a former party president who is sceptical of close links with Labour, appeared to be an early favourite in the leadership race.

Mr Ashdown insisted at a Westminster news conference that his decision had been taken with his wife Jane before the last election. They had then agreed that Mr Ashdown, who will be 58 next month, would not fight another election as leader or as MP for Yeovil.

At their first meeting after the election, Mr Ashdown informed Mr Blair that he would quit as party leader in the middle of the Parliament. Mr Blair was recently told that the formal announcement would be made yesterday.

Ironically, it meant that the Government's announcement on Lords reform, long promoted by Mr Ashdown, was overshadowed. It is understood that the Government even considered delaying the Lords announcement for a day to accommodate Mr Ashdown.

It was clear last night that Mr Ashdown had been under strong pressure from his family to stand down. Mrs Ashdown sat at the back of the news conference in her husband's office and said that she was extremely pleased with his decision. She said: "We never see him. Weekends belong to the party as well as the week. Need I say more."

Mr Ashdown said the decision had been a "very personal" one, which ordinary people would see as "essentially human".

He has been leader for 11 years, making him the longest-serving mainstream party leader, and currently the oldest.

Mr Ashdown said he decided to announce his decision now to avoid speculation about his leadership and bitter in-fighting during the record round of elections in May and June.

He was clearly relieved to be going on his own terms. "Too many leaders are carried out or kicked out. It is relatively rare for a leader to choose his time of going and to leave on an upswing."

Party President Baroness Maddock said in a letter to MPs: "It would be wholly improper for anyone to declare their candidacy formally or informally, or to campaign for the leadership until these elections are over."

However, within an hour of Mr Ashdown's announcement, a friend of party campaigns chief Mr Harvey, a rare Eurosceptic in the Liberal leadership, confirmed that he would stand as a candidate when the time came.

A senior leadership source declined to condemn the Harvey camp, saying: "That's fine, but it would be very surprising if people started setting out their stall before the election."

Other possible contenders include Menzies Campbell, Matthew Taylor, Malcolm Bruce, Don Foster and Alan Beith, although some will be considered too old.

Mr Ashdown said he had a "succession strategy" like "any sensible manager of any sensible organisation" of putting people in frontline positions over the past two years to ensure the party had a proper range of candidates. "But I don't believe in a democratic party that leaders should choose their successors. That's a matter wholly for the party."

Mr Blair said in a statement that Mr Ashdown was "one of the outstanding party leaders of his generation". A spokesman for the Prime Minister said: "Of course the links between the Government and Liberal Democrats will continue to develop both in Mr Ashdown's remaining time as leader and thereafter."

The links were "not dependent upon personalities" but on the desire for "a more mature and modern politics".

William Hague wished Mr Ashdown well for the future: "We have often disagreed but we have always enjoyed good personal relations."

Interview and career profile, pages 4, 5



ANDRE CAMARA

Paddy Ashdown and his wife, Jane, at the Commons yesterday after he had resigned as leader of the Liberal Democrats

# Nato expands Kosovo military force

AN AMERICAN aircraft carrier, accompanied by two guided missile cruisers armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, were ordered to the Adriatic last night after Nato decided to increase strikepower in the region.

Britain also announced that four more Harrier GR7s were being sent from RAF Laarbruch in Germany to Gioia del Colle in Italy early next week to join the four already in position. An extra tanker will also be dispatched to Italy.

The military buildup came as Washington announced that Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, would fly to Paris and London next week for meetings with her French and British counterparts on the Kosovo crisis.

The US Navy's *USS Enterprise*, equipped with more than 70 aircraft, was ordered to leave the Mediterranean for the Adriatic when it became clear that President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, would not halt the repressive action in Kosovo. In simultaneous moves aimed at increasing pressure on Mr Milosevic, all Nato aircraft based in Italy were switched from four days' operational notice to two days.

Yesterday's decision by Nato's North Atlantic Council in Brussels to increase the military firepower followed a briefing by the two generals who met Mr Milosevic in Belgrade on Tuesday. They reported that the Yugoslav leader had shown no flexibility over Kosovo and had been "blunt and obdurate" in his refusal to agree to Nato's demands. The council is expected to remain in almost continual session throughout the rest of the week. Yesterday's military moves were described as "precautionary measures".

Racak massacre, page 15

# The Queen in protest over letters

LAWYERS acting for the Queen, Princess Margaret and the Prince of Wales have written to Piers Morgan, editor of *The Mirror*, over the publication of private letters written to an unnamed member of the Royal Family.

The family are dismayed by publication of letters that have been given to the paper by a relative "to set the record straight".



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# Peers feel sweep of new broom

By James Landale and Philip Webster

RADICAL plans for a part-elected, part-nominated second House of Parliament were backed by the Government yesterday as it began moves to sweep away the centuries-old rights of hereditary peers.

As the Government published its Bill to expel 750 hereditary peers from the Lords, it announced that a Royal Commission will report before the end of the year on proposals for a second chamber.But the new House must "neither threaten nor usurp" the supremacy of the Commons.

In a 50-page White Paper, the Government gave the Commission a broad remit to consider a wide range of possible reforms, but it gave a clear hint that it preferred a part-elected, part-nominated chamber. The Commission should also consider how a reformed upper house could accomodate members of the devolved assemblies, and the Government suggested a role for MEPs.

The Commission will be headed by the former Conservative Cabinet minister Lord Wakeham. Gerald Kaufman, Labour MP for Manchester Gorton, was the only other member of the 12-strong body appointed yesterday.

Recommendations by the Commission will be considered by a joint committee of both Houses. Any resulting legislation would be introduced by November 2000 at the earliest.

Ministers made plain that they were ready to accept the deal negotiated before Christmas by Viscount Cranborne, the sacked former Tory Lords leader, that will allow 91 hereditary peers to survive in the "transition House" that will come into being later this year. But they warned that this would depend on Conservative peers not obstructing its programme. In the Commons, Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, said that a "pitched battle" in the Lords would jeopardise the deal.

Under the plans, some 50 Labour peers will be appointed later this year to bring the Government side up to parity with the Tories in the Lords once the bulk of the hereditary peers have gone. Apart from those salvaged by the Cranborne deal, peers who are in the Lords only by virtue of their birth will be out by the end of this year's Parliamentary session in October. The House of Lords Bill will give the expelled peers the right to vote in and stand for Parliamentary elections.

After negotiations between Buckingham Palace and Downing Street, the Prince of Wales and four other Royal Dukes will lose their rights to sit and vote in the Lords. The existing 26 Church of England bishops and 12 law lords will continue to sit during the transition period.

The deadline for the Royal Commission is tight and throughout the day ministers expressed hope that they could implement its proposals by the next election.

Mr Blair said in a foreword to the White Paper: "For too long, hereditary peers with no democratic legitimacy ... have been able to play a part in laws affecting everyone in Britain."

The Lords heard the announcement first from Lady Jay of Paddington, the Labour Leader in the Lords, who said: "A fundamental anachronism can be removed as we reach the millennium." Her statement met with cheers from Labour peers.

But Lord Strathclyde, the Tory Leader in the Lords, said there was "a deep sense of disquiet" about what she had announced". He said: "Nothing said today justifies the removal of the hereditary peers before the Royal Commission reports. It is sheer constitutional vandalism to tear down a structure that is working well and offer no ideas on what they will build in its place."

In the Commons, Mrs Beckett, told MPs thatMr Blair will give up his veto on nominations from the two other party leaders. But the Prime Minister will retain the most important power to decide how many new peers each party gets.

Lords reform, pages 10-12




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# Missing girls 'talked of running away'

By Helen Johnstone, Michael Horsnell and Stephen Farrell



Lisa: had no worries

A POLICE hunt with sniffer dogs intensified last night for two ten-year-old girls who went missing after setting out for school on Tuesday morning.

One of their schoolmates has told police they talked of running away but concern has grown for Charlene Lunnon and Lisa Hoodless after the school in St Leonards, East Sussex, sent a letter to parents over the Christmas holidays warning of a suspicious man seen loitering near the school.

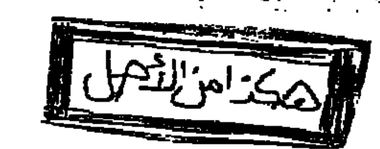
The girls were last seen at 8.30am when they left the Lunnon family home to walk together to Christ Church C of E Primary School 500 yards away.

The girls never reached the school but the alarm was only raised by Lisa's mother Julie when she went to pick her daughter up from school and discovered that she had never arrived. Police were told at 5pm. Police last night said they were "hopeful" of finding the girls safely after a number of unconfirmed sightings in the St Leonards area.

Charlene's father Keith, 48, her stepmother Philomena, 46, and Lisa's parents Andy, 37, and Julie, 35, appealed for them to return home. Mr Lunnon, a drug and alcohol adviser for Hastings Council, said: "Please come home. You will not be told off." Mr Hoodless, a council gardener, said the neither girl had showed any worries: "Lisa's a very happy girl, very bright and very intelligent."



Charlene: father's appeal



# Now it will become Saint Paddy — but that is just routine




IT WAS a typically decent performance from Paddy Ashdown at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. He had kept the secret well. Almost nobody in the chamber, and nobody in the press, knew.

All we knew was what was *routine*. *The Liberal Democrat* leader gets two questions to the PM every Wednesday; yesterday was Wednesday; and Paddy Ashdown was Liberal Democrat leader — *had* been for as long as young Liberal Democrats could remember, and would be, surely, for years to come. This was routine.

*William Hague* and *Tony* Blair pecked piously at each other for five minutes on Northern Ireland. Mr Ashdown rose. Everyone groaned. This too was routine.

MPs from other parties *always groan when* Paddy stands. Last week (and for the first time) he responded to a particularly loud groan by smiling "and a happy new *year to you too!*" Even enemies chuckled. It was gracefully done. None of us guessed the poignancy.

Yesterday the groan was only an average groan. *Ashdown took no notice* and asked about the Balkans.

That, too, was routine.

He usually does. It is common to accuse Liberal Democrats of shameless populism but there are no British votes *in the Balkans* and even Ashdown's own parliamentary party have wearied of his dogged concern for this faraway place of which we know *little. Mr Ashdown* sticks to his guns on Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia, for one reason only: he believes it matters. Rather as with those One-World obsessives who bang on about overpopulation in Africa, who you *know are right but to whom* you cannot quite make yourself listen, Ashdown's fate is to be right before anyone's interested.

Among *Liberal Democrats*, this too is routine.

Yesterday *he* got further than usual with Tony Blair, persuading the Prime Minister to say that the use of ground troops by Nato in Kos*ovo* was *not ruled* out. Ashdown made no pretence of attacking the Government, and Blair made no pretence of attacking back: he answered generously.

Perhaps it was a sort of farewell. Mr Blair was strangely muted for the whole session. He couldn't even rouse himself to shout at the Tories much. He sounded bleak. He knew that a soul-mate was about to jump ship.

An hour later the news broke and the Press Gallery went wild. We who *have for* the most part disparaged, belittled or laughed at Paddy Ashdown, gossiped, speculated — and turned our minds to finding something nice to say, since he's bowing out.

*This too is routine.*

Now the war-dance starts among his senior colleagues in the Commons. Men and women who for many months have been whispering of their despair at his closeness to Blair, complaining that he is shackling their party to an unattractive Government, and dreaming aloud about a challenge *to his* leadership ... these people are now his friends again.

From yesterday onward, no ill will *be spoken* of Paddy, especially by *those* who *used* to be critical. All at once he will bask in the uncomplicated affection of an entire party. The backslaps, the "won't you think again?", the "there's nobody who could take Paddy's place" will swell to a chorus among those who seek to take Paddy's place.

The race is between Simon Hughes, Charles Kennedy and Nick Harvey. *The young* curate-*manqué*, permanently *scarred by cycle-clips*: the ginger Tom who got the cream; and the encyclopaedia-salesman with eyes of the undead, suspected of strangling old ladies ... all have been careful to be loyal, recently.

That, *too*, *is routine*.

# Pay strike threat to meat industry

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MEAT inspectors voted yesterday to stage a series of strikes over pay which threaten to disrupt supplies and delay the restart of beef exports.

Inspectors have seen their workload increase because of the safeguards imposed to protect the public against "mad cow" disease, and many have complained of being threatened or attacked while trying to ensure safety levels.

About 1,000 inspectors in England, Scotland and Wales will be called out on a one-day stoppage before February 2 if the dispute is not resolved. Their trade union, Unison, said this would be followed by a series of two-day and three-day strikes if the Meat Hygiene Service, an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, does not meet their demands.

The strike is in protest *against an imposed* pay rise of 3.65 per cent, which the MHS says comes to 4 per cent when non-pay elements are taken into account. Unison had *asked for a 5 per cent rise and* says its members are angry because other Ministry of Agriculture staff received 4.7 per cent. Most inspectors are on basic earnings of no more than £13,000-£14,000 a year, and many work up to 60 hours a week *to supplement their* income with ovetime pay, according to Unison. About 100 senior inspectors earn between £17,000 and £18,000.

*It is the first time there has* been a national strike has been threatened by meat inspectors, who before the establishment of the MHS in April, 1995, were employed by local authorities. In figures released yesterday, Unison said that 352 voted for industrial action, with 225 against, in a 57 per cent turnout.

The MHS has 1,500 and 1,600 meat inspectors to monitor some 400 slaughterhouses. One third do not belong to Unison and *will* be unaffected by the strike call. Meat inspectors, along with vets, must be present whenever a slaughterhouse is operating and examine cattle, pig, lamb and poultry carcasses for disease or bacteriological contamination. The biggest abattoirs slaughter and process up to 500 cattle *and 3,000 sheep a day. Large* poultry plants process between 5,000 abnd 10,000 chickens an hour.

Keith Sonnet, Unison's assistant general secretary, said the rejection of their pay demand was the "last straw" for meat inspectors.

Johnston McNeill, chief executive of the *MHS*, said vets and local environmental health officers would be asked to cover for meat inspectors, though he admitted that some abattoirs might not be able to operate on strike days. "We are subject to Treasury guidelines on public sector pay and we made the best offer we could."

Peter Scott, general secretary of the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, which represents slaughterhouses, said: "I think this has been badly handled by the Government. *The cost of the disruption* caused by a strike is likely to far exceed the cost of settling the dispute."

## Unpasteurised milk reprieved from ban

**Devotees of unpasteurised milk, who include the Queen and the Prince of Wales, will be able to go on drinking it even though the Government considers the practice unsafe (*Michael Hornsby writes*). Nick Brown, *the Agriculture Minister*, confirmed yesterday that he had decided not to proceed with the sales ban proposed by his Department more than a year ago. The Government will, however, be imposing tougher hygiene checks on producers of untreated milk, including *more frequent testing for microbiological contamination*. Labels on "green-top" milk will also have to carry an amplified health warning, including advice that the young, the elderly, pregnant women and the sick should not drink it.**



ANDRE CAMARA

It was business as usual for Sophie Rhys-Jones as she celebrated her 34th birthday yesterday. The PR executive, who is to marry Prince Edward, spent the day at work

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Rationing of drugs on NHS 'common'

Drug rationing in the NHS is more common in the most depressed areas of Britain, where the population has *some of* the highest disease rates, according to a survey into "postcode prescribing".

It argues that GPs and health authorities are so wor*ried* about prescribing drugs that are cost effective that they fail to realise that medicines can save money by preventing patients ending up needing expensive *hospital treatment*.

The survey, for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Society, the umbrella body for all major drugs manufacturers, *claims that* even though rationing is officially not allowed in the NHS, it is now widespread throughout the country.

The claim is backed by a an NOP poll of 200 GPs which shows that three out of five doctors say they do not always give their patients the best available treatment on the National Health Service because it is too expensive.

## Muslim appeal

A delegation of Muslim representatives met Foreign Office ministers to seek intervention over five Britons being held in Yemen under terrorism charges. Their visit coincided with the *Islamic fundamenta*[illegible] leader Sheikh Abu Ha[illegible] who is believed to be co[illegible] ed with at least one of [illegible] tainees, reiterating [illegible] for attacks on West[illegible]

## Boys ques[illegible]

Two schoolboy[illegible] questioned by [illegible] night after anoth[illegible] stabbed and left for [illegible] the bottom of a crag for [illegible] nights. Ashley Murray, 13, is in a critical but stable condition after he was found at the *foot of the 30ft-high rock*, less than a mile from his home in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, by a man walking his dog.

## Victim's legacy

Crime rates in Ireland have fallen by 15 per cent since the murder of Veronica Guerin, *the investigative journalist, in* 1996. Drug dealers and gangland bosses have been forced underground after the introduction of emergency powers of arrest and seizure of assets secured through illegal activity. Burglaries and robberies also fell dramatically.

## Lawrence play

An acclaimed stage dramatisation of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is to move to London's West End. The play, *The Colour Of Justice*, is also to be filmed and broadcast by the BBC. The production will be at the Theatre Royal in Strat*ford East from February 15 to* 27, then move to the Victoria Palace Theatre in the West End from March 3 to 13.

## Blair guard suspended after firing at pigeons

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ONE of the Prime Minister's bodyguards had his firearms *permit suspended after he* shot at a flock of pigeons.

The incident happened outside Tony Blair's home in his Sedgefield constituency at *Trimdon Colliery, Co Dur*ham, on Saturday when the birds triggered an electronic surveillance device. The officer from Durham Constabulary's Armed Protection Team, which provides a round-the-clock guard, disturbed the birds in bushes after going to investigate and they flew into *his face. The guard, a Falk*lands War veteran, thought he was under attack and raised his Heckler and Koch carbine.

He later told his superiors *that he realised his "assailant"* was a flock of pigeons but it was too late to stop and he fired a single high-velocity round into the air. The officer, *who has* not been identified, has now been allowed to return to armed duty. Mr Blair was not at home at the time.

## Fees protesters may be expelled

BY HANNAH BETTS

*STUDENTS protesting* against Oxford University's tuition fees faced the ultimate sanction last night after their colleges met to decide whether *to send them down. The* results of the meetings will be announced today but one student has already been unofficially warned that she will be expelled.

About 100 students reacted with a silent vigil held in the main quadrangle of the Bodleian library, followed by an march on St Hilda's College.

The dons who make up the governing bodies at Somerville and St Hilda's met in lengthy afternoon session to *decide the protesters' fate.*

St Hilda's College was the first to reach a decision against its lone dissident, Laura Paskell-Brown, 18, who is *studying Philosophy, Politics* and Economics.

Ms Paskell-Brown said that she has already received unofficial warning that she will be expelled.

"I have been told there is an appeal process and I will certainly appeal against the deci*sion. I will have to discuss it* with my parents and Junior Common Room president before I decide what to do next. I expected this but not so soon," *she said.*

Somerville College considered the academic futures of first-year students Alex Ismail, Frances Linehan, Catherine Ravenscroft and *David Hatch*ett.

Frances Linehan, 19, whose father is a history tutor at Cambridge, said that all five protesters faced an extremely anxious night's wait. "Right now I feel very nervous. It's hard for it all to sink in. We've achieved what we wanted which was to get *this issue in the public* eye. But nothing will come of it if we become martyrs."

Ms Linehan, a classicist, said that she intended to *spend what could be her last* night as an Oxford student in her college room reading Homer's *Iliad*.

About 2,000 students from *all over the country are due to* descend on Oxford on Friday for a demonstration against the £1,000 tuition fees.

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## Torture code 'bans immunity'

BY JOANNA BALE

THERE is no immunity for *those who use torture as an in*strument of state policy, which is banned under international law, the Pinochet hearing was told yesterday.

Christopher Greenwood, appearing for the Crown Prosecu*tion Service on* behalf of Spain, told the law lords that during this century international law came to recognise that there could be no immunity from prosecution for certain grave crimes, regardless of an individual's rank, and that national courts could claim jurisdiction over those crimes.

International law had been a "living and expanding code", Professor Greenwood said. He cited the international Convention against Torture 1984, *which was incorporated into* English law by the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

But even before General Pinochet's 1973 coup, international law had prohibited torture as an instrument of state *policy*. A 1919 *commission to* establish responsibility for war crimes during the First World War established the principle that a head of state enjoyed *no* "*fundamental im*munity", Professor Greenwood said. "There is a tendency in popular mythology to assume that Nuremberg and Tokyo were all that there was."

The hearing will continue today with representations *from* Amnesty International.

## Hague criticises prison releases

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND JILL SHERMAN

THE cross-party consensus on *Northern Ireland was serious*ly strained last night after Tony Blair refused to halt terrorist prisoner releases over the rise in punishment attacks and the paramilitaries' failure to decommission.

*During heated exchanges in* the Commons the Prime Minister said the Conservatives were "asking us in effect to bring the whole of the Good Friday agreement to an end". William Hague, the Tory leader, replied that his party was merely demanding the agreement be implemented.

Mr Hague raised the issue after yesterday's report in *The Times* on Andrew Peden, a Belfast man who had both legs amputated after being kneecapped by the *Ulster Volun*teer Force. He is one of 256 reported *victims* of paramilitary beatings and shootings in the Province over the past 13 months.

Mr Hague said such attacks were *increasingly frequent* and violated the agreement, "yet we are still releasing early prisoners belonging to the organisations responsible for these crimes".

☐ The Orange Volunteers, a *new loyalist splinter* group, claimed responsibility for bombing the home of a Roman Catholic man near the village of Loughinisland, Co Down, *on Tuesday night. The* man suffered minor injuries.

# Family divided by du Pré film row

## Cellist's niece accuses parents of gross distortion, reports Dalya Alberge

THE row over the new film about Jacqueline du Pré worsened yesterday as her niece attacked her own parents for portraying the cellist as a sexual predator.

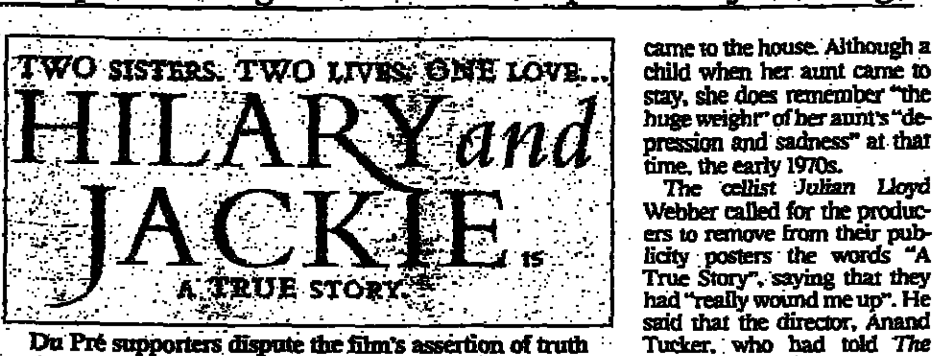
Clare Finzi, 33, daughter of Hilary and Kiffer, whose story was told in *A Genius in the Family*, on which the film *Hilary and Jackie* is based, accused her parents of grossly distorting the true story to make more money. The film, in which du Pré is portrayed by the actress Emily Watson, focuses on the cellist's affair with Kiffer, the husband of her sister, Hilary.

Miss Finzi said that her father was a womaniser. "Jackie comes over as the sole protagonist and Dad is portrayed as a gentle soul. In fact, this is absolutely untrue. My father had several affairs, tending to choose women who were lost and unsure of themselves. He was to them a wise, philosophical figure. As he had no boundaries, it would end up with a sexual affair."

One of du Pré's closest friends, Cynthia Friend, who was with the cellist when she died of multiple sclerosis in 1987, said that they had told each other every secret, but that du Pré had never said anything about an affair with Kiffer.

"My gut feeling is that, as a very close friend, the fact she never mentioned it meant it was something she couldn't discuss," she said.

Miss Finzi and Ms Friend were speaking in advance of the opening of *Hilary and Jackie* this week in London. The film portrays du Pré as a spoilt and foul-mouthed sexual predator. It is based on an account by du Pré's siblings, Hilary and Piers.




Du Pré supporters dispute the film's assertion of truth

Miss Finzi, who teaches the cello privately and in school, had been reticent about criticising her parents, but said yesterday that she could no longer remain silent.

"This has been such a gross misrepresentation, I can't let it go unchallenged," she said.

"I don't feel bitter. That doesn't mean I think what he did was good. I'm angry he's sitting back, letting this representation go ahead. I feel so frustrated that it's obviously untrue.

"I cannot believe the producer and director were taken in by a story which had such apparent gaps and takes such a shallow view."

Miss Finzi has written a letter to her father, to which she has so far not received a reply. However, what hurt most of all, she said, was that du Pré's genius has been so overshadowed by the sexual angle. It is only relevant to the immediate family. What's revealed to the public is out of context and out of proportion."

She discounts suggestions that telling the story was cathartic for her mother. "What motivated her might have been an element of feeling that, when she was writing it, the story was personal to her, that she wanted to tell it and not anyone else. I'm afraid I'm not at all happy trying to understand the motivation behind the film, which I think was partly commercial."

Miss Finzi does not deny the affair between her father and aunt and recalls that he would regularly sleep in her room. "Some mornings he'd be there. I knew perfectly well that there was the same closeness between dad and Jackie as between dad and Mum." It is claimed that other women also came to the house. Although a child when her aunt came to stay, she does remember "the huge weight" of her aunt's "depression and sadness" at that time, the early 1970s.

The cellist Julian Lloyd Webber called for the producers to remove from their publicity posters the words "A True Story", saying that they had "really wound me up". He said that the director, Anand Tucker, who had told *The Times* this week that this was "a mythic story about two extraordinary women", was backtracking on whether it was entirely factual.

Another cellist, Steven Isserlis, said any claim that du Pré would be happy was "like saying the ugly sisters would be happy seeing themselves in a pantomime of *Cinderella*".

At the charity premiere of the film last night, two students from the Royal College of Music staged a protest. Jo Shouler, 22, said that her contemporaries were upset by the "trend for taking private lives" out of context.

"The general public always picks up on the salacious bits. People aren't going to remember her for her music. She deserves to be remembered for her music and nothing else," she said.

Miss Watson and the film's producer, Andy Paterson, asked the students to reserve their judgment until after they had seen the film.

A spokesman for the production company said that it was unlikely that Hilary or Kiffer would like to comment.

Menuhin wrong, page 21
Film preview, page 37

**NET LINKS**

www.mindspring.com/~mmuelle/dupre/index.html contains pictures, biographies, book reviews and musical reviews of the cellist Jacqueline du Pre with links to other du Pre sites on the Net.



Clare Finzi, above, claims that her parents are sullying du Pré's name to make money. Below: du Pré; Kiffer, who "chose women who were lost", and du Pré's sister, Hilary





# Gangland armourer is put behind bars

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

A GUN dealer suspected of being one of the biggest underworld armourers in Britain was in jail yesterday facing a long prison sentence for supplying sub-machineguns capable of firing 1,200 rounds a minute.

Police believe that Anthony Mitchell, 44, legally imported deactivated MAC-10 guns from the United States and converted them to fire live ammunition. Known in the underworld as Big Macs, they can fire 30 rounds in less than two seconds.

The deactivated guns sell for £300 to collectors. Mitchell's activated weapons were sold through a network in "assassination kits" with 9mm bullets and silencers at £1,100 each.

Mitchell was arrested after a lengthy operation involving MI5, Scotland Yard, Strathclyde Police and the National Crime Squad. He will be sentenced next month after pleading guilty at the Old Bailey to four firearms charges. Five other charges have been left on the file.

When Mitchell was arrested by officers from the National Crime Squad, they found 50 deactivated sub-machineguns, and 20 breech blocks that could make them fire, in a workshop at Hove, Brighton. Experts say that converting the guns is a simple task.

Police have recovered a total of 73 activated and deactivated MAC-10s which they believe they can link through forensic science to Mitchell, who ran a legitimate gun business.

Nineteen have been linked by police to crimes committed by others, including one used in a murder in Brixton, South London. Others were found during drugs raids in Moss Side and Longsight, Manchester, and in Liverpool and Dublin. Three activated guns were seized from Paul Ferris, a Glasgow gangster, who is serving ten years.

Others were found in the boot of a car among a cache of 50 guns. Detectives believe they were bought on behalf of a group of jailed criminals who tipped off police, hoping for better conditions in jail or help for parole. Police took the guns but made no deal.

Mitchell, from Brighton, was a trained engineer and used his skill to make guns untraceable. Police suspect he supplied other types of guns too. Contacts he met in a Kent gun club helped to distribute the weapons. Last year four people, including Ferris, were convicted on gun offences and a South London man is awaiting sentence.

# Football inquiry over a picture of sliding tackle

By Simon de Bruxelles

IT WAS the kind of published apology that sent a newspaper's readers rummaging through their rubbish bins to find the offending item they had missed. Why should the *Stroud News and Journal* be saying sorry for any offence caused by a group picture of a local amateur football team?

Yesterday it emerged that the photograph is being investigated by the Football Association, with the risk of a fine or ban from the Gloucestershire northern senior league.

The problem was that the photograph showed rather more of Craig Hampson, a star player for Whitminster [illegible] usual in such pre-match pictures. Readers had spotted what the newspaper staff had missed, and the editor had complained to the Gloucester FA.

The picture shows the team lined up before a game with Brimscombe and Thurrock which ended in a 0-0 draw last week. The question to be the subject of an inquiry was whether Mr Hampson had been aware of the situation. The factory worker from Nailsworth is seen crouching down on the far right of the front row. He is smiling.

Dave Herbert, the Whitminster club secretary, said: "He is very embarrassed. He assures me it was not intentional. He had forgotten to take the trunks he normally wears under his shorts. All he had to wear was a pair of boxer shorts which was why this happened without him realising."

Skip Walker, the paper's editor, said yesterday that she did not believe that the player's private parts had just slipped out. She said: "I have made a formal complaint about the player's behaviour."

Paul Britton, general secretary of the Gloucestershire FA, said: "Our disciplinary committee will take such action as it thinks fit."



## Police quiz rugby player

The rugby player Wendell Sailor, 24, above, was questioned by police after being found in a car with a woman later charged with soliciting. The Australian, who plays union and league in Leeds, has a girlfriend and young son. Police said a man had been "given advice as to his conduct".

# Badger contract killer is ordered to pay £1,000

By A Correspondent

A PENSIONER hired for £15 to kill a badger that had been digging up a lawn was ordered to pay over £1,000 in fines and costs after being spotted by a farmworker.

Joseph Thomas, 72, a retired pest control officer, was known locally as an odd-job man. But the job he was hired for by a landowner in Betton, Shropshire, meant killing a protected species, magistrates at Market Drayton were told.

Chris Dunbar, an RSPCA inspector, told the court that the badger had been killed by baiting, a particularly sadistic method. As the animal tried to wriggle out of the snare, the wire would have worked its way into its flesh. He said that Thomas returned to the snare to find the animal and shot it. The snare was set in a field near a private garden but police have not found the man who hired Thomas.

Mr Dunbar said that a herdsman spotted Thomas carrying the corpse to his car. Thomas was said to have told him: "I'm just redressing the balance. You're best rid of them." Later Thomas went to the police station and confessed.

Mr Dunbar said: "He immediately admitted setting a snare to catch the badger, which is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and shooting the badger which is illegal under the Badgers Act."

Mr Dunbar, who went to the scene, said: "I saw clumps of badger hair in a pool of blood. There was hair on the ground and in the snare and there were scratches all over the ground where the animal had tried to escape."

Thomas, of Stanton, who admitted the offences, was fined £250 for setting the snare and £500 for shooting the badger. He must also pay £293 costs.

After the case, Mr Dunbar said Thomas had refused to say who had hired him.

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# Lib-Lab co-operation will survive, says Ashdown

## The leader of the Liberal Democrats explained to Peter Riddell why he was retiring this summer

TONY BLAIR must be feeling lonely this morning. A month ago Peter Mandelson, his close ally, was forced to resign and last night Paddy Ashdown, his partner in the realignment of the Centre-Left startled the political world by announcing his intention to stand down as Liberal Democrat leader this summer. The impact both on his own party and on the face of British politics will be far-reaching.

Mr Blair was one of the very few to know both Mr Ashdown's long-term intention and the timing of his announcement. The initiatives on Labour/Liberal Democrat co-operation of the past 18 months, including the joint Cabinet committee, were taken in the knowledge that Mr Ashdown would not be around for the whole Parliament.

When I spoke to him yesterday in his Westminster office, Mr Ashdown was adamant that this policy would "be able to continue without me at the helm". Nonetheless, he admits that some in his party disagree and that the leadership election in the summer will provide an opportunity for this to be debated. Moreover, whoever becomes Lib Dem leader is bound to lack Mr Ashdown's standing and be less close personally to the Prime Minister.

Mr Blair has always talked highly of Mr Ashdown, whom he trusts and likes. Mr Blair may therefore be more distant from his successor, whatever his views on party links may be, so co-operation with the Lib Dems may become a lesser priority in Downing Street.

Mr Ashdown is, perversely, reluctant to admit the significance of his departure. He was even surprised at the stunned reaction of his office staff. For him, it is a long-agreed personal decision to step down after 11 years as leader. He agreed with his wife Jane before the last general election that he would not fight another one either as party leader or as MP for Yeovil. He does not want to be an MP at 65. "I do not want to do the job less than full justice with all the physical energy it demands."

The announcement now is intended to give his successors, both as party leader and in Yeovil, time to become established before the next general election. He wants to leave on his terms, without being dragged or pushed out of the leadership. The question has "not been if, but when".

"I have never been an ordinary politician", he says. It has been "the passion of my life for the past 20 years, but I had a life before politics, as a Marine, diplomat, businessman and voluntary worker, and I want a life after politics". Typically, he says that, "during my life I have sailed a number of oceans and want to enjoy one more sea".

To outsiders, the decision seems more puzzling. Why now? After rebuilding his party from the shambles of the Liberal/SDP merger in 1988, he can now see the rewards on the horizon: elections under proportional representation for Scotland, Wales and Europe this spring, the prospect of referendums on a single currency and, more remotely, PR for Westminster, with the chance of participation in a Blair-led coalition after the next election. One or two of those in the know tried to dissuade him, but his decision with his wife has come first.

Mr Ashdown denies that his departure will disturb this strategy, or that he has been affected by criticism from within his party, before Christmas, that he was too close to Mr Blair. He points to the overwhelming endorsement from all but two of his MPs and by three-quarters of the party's federal executive for his strategy of "constructive opposition". His post-election objectives have been substantially completed and the party is "in good order and in a stable position". He believes that Mr Blair is "emotionally and intellectually" committed in favour of the Jenkins Commission report on changing the voting system for the Commons.

An announcement had been considered before Christmas but was delayed, partly because of the row over the European elections Bill, until after the policy of co-operation with the Government was "reaffirmed and expanded" last Thursday. The joint Cabinet committee set up discussions on a common European foreign and security policy. The Bill bringing in PR for the European elections, one of the party's long-sought goals, has also received Royal Assent. He also points to the recent rise in the party's opinion poll rating.

Lib Dems wonder whether his decision might have been different had Labour received a small overall majority in 1997 and the party been part of a coalition government, with Mr Ashdown as a senior minister. He might have wanted to stay the course then, though yesterday he denied he had "the slightest interest in being a Cabinet minister in someone else's Cabinet, administering someone else's policies on someone else's terms". Nonetheless, he remains convinced that the Lib Dems will be in national government within ten years and admits to sadness that he will not be leading his party when that happens.

Yet Mr Ashdown can look back on a highly successful period as leader since the infighting of the post-merger period and the party's dismal showing in the Euro-elections of 1989 (when the party was eclipsed by the Greens). The party now has 46 MPs, the largest number since the days of Lloyd George, and controls or shares control on local councils in many parts of the country. The Lib Dems are also likely to be players in the new devolved legislatures and gain several seats in May's Euro elections, thanks not least to PR.

Mr Ashdown sees his main achievement as helping Britain move towards a more pluralist style of politics. He seems happy, content and satisfied with his achievement, as he should be. But to a political world obsessed with career ambitions, his departure remains a puzzle. But then Mr Ashdown has never fitted the Westminster stereotype.

Mr Ashdown yesterday: "I have sailed many oceans and want to enjoy one more sea"

## Kennedy is clear



**Charles Kennedy, aged 39, MP for Ross, Skye and Inverness West. Spokesman for rural affairs, past president of the party. Not married.**

**He is popular and jovial. In the past he has devoted too much time to radio and TV chat shows, but has cut back his number of appearances. Will appeal to the rural vote and the younger generation. A *sotto voce* critic of links with Labour, and a strong pro-European.**

**The Government thinks it could work with him at the helm.**

**Front runner. Odds 7-4 fav**



Nick Harvey, 37, MP for Devon North. Not married. The party's chief campaign manager and communications coordinator. Seen as the continuity candidate, he is popular in some sections of the parliamentary party but is lacking broader appeal.

Mild-mannered, genial and hard-working. He is close to Paddy Ashdown and is likely to continue with existing policies. An arch Eurosceptic - the only Liberal Democrat to vote against the Maastricht treaty and is cautious about extending links with Labour.

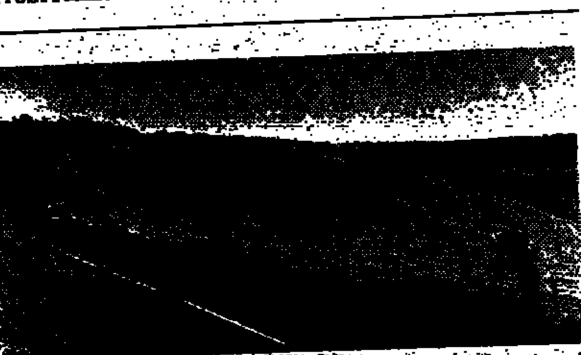
Odds 6-1.

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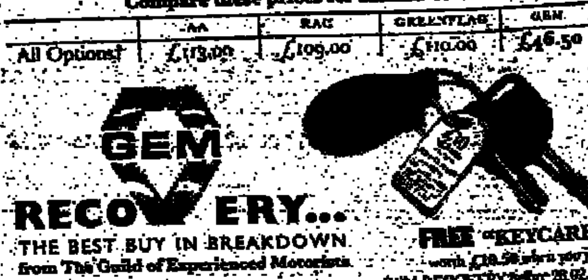
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Man of action: Paddy Ashdown on jungle patrol with the Royal Marines in the 1960s, applauded by colleagues after winning the party leadership in 1988, and, with his loyal wife Jane at his side, admitting an affair with his secretary

# How battle honours were won

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

THE signs were hardly encouraging when Jeremy John Durham Ashdown became the first leader of the reconstituted Centre party in 1988.

He inherited a fractious coalition still infected by the bad blood that had flowed across the middle ground during the uneasy Alliance years. The bickering over the Liberal/SDP merger had degenerated to the point where the new party was chiefly lodged in the public consciousness because of its inability to choose a name.

Things got worse before they got better. In the European elections the next year the party fell into fourth place, behind the Greens, taking only 6 per cent of the vote.

Mr Ashdown reacted by relaunching his fledgeling party, changing its name again. Two months later the Liberal Democrats hit rock bottom in the opinion polls, attracting just 3 per cent support.

Compared with then, the party now has political riches: seats on a joint Cabinet committee, proportional representation for elections to Europe, a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly, and Liberal Democrat views sought and listened to in at least some of the corridors of No 10.

There have also been election gains. In 1988 the party had 19 MPs but no MEPs. Today Mr Ashdown heads a party of 46 MPs, the highest number since 1929. This June, it they will make gains on the three MEPs currently on side. The Liberal Democrats are the second party of local government, ahead of the Tories, with 4,633 councillors and 40 local authorities under their control.

The success can be partly put down to Mr Ashdown's relentless targeting of likely votes, as well as his party's instinct to fight as ruthlessly at street level as their leader's former comrades in the Marines. The party's popular support actually fell from 19.7 per cent in 1992 to 16.8 per cent in 1997. But by concentrating on building a powerbase in south-west England, as well as other pockets of likely third party support, the Lib Dems' parliamentary showing has shown dramatic improvement. Mr Ashdown's greatest nights at the polls have been at by-elections. In 1990, success in Eastbourne foreshadowed Margaret Thatcher's downfall. During the last Parliament, famous nights in Newbury, Christchurch and Eastleigh showed which way the political winds were howling.

Mr Ashdown has not hidden his discomfort with Westminster and its ways, and his self-portrayal as a man more at home in the foothills of Bosnia than the Commons helped to fix him in voters' minds.

As remarkable as his political achievements was his ability to overcome the disclosure of his five-month affair five years previously with his secretary. The day in February 1992 when he stood with his arm around his wife Jane to confess his adultery was by far his lowest point. However, Mrs Ashdown's support and orders from John Major and Neil Kinnock that no political capital should be made out of the issue in the looming general election enabled him to put the episode behind him, though he never shook off the nickname "Paddy Pantsdown".

Anybody looking for signals of yesterday's shock announcement, should cast their minds back to the last election campaign. Midway through, Mr Ashdown jumped ship for 24 hours to go to France to see his daughter Kate and new grandson, Matthias.

## favourite for leadership



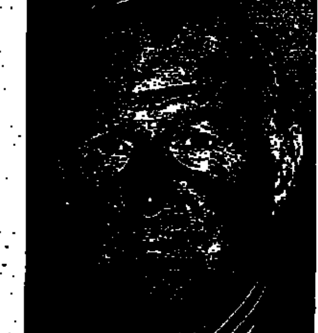
Simon Hughes, 47, MP for Southwark North and Bermondsey. Not married. Spokesman for health. fought off the gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell in 1983 by-election for his seat and won Labour stronghold after the death of Bob Mellish, Is keen on promoting environmental and urban issues but is said not to have broader appeal. He drives a yellow London taxi. Is publicly opposed to extended links with the Labour Party. A serious contender but he needs to widen appeal. Odds: 5-1.



Menzies Campbell, 57, MP for Fife North East.
Married, well-liked elder statesman. Seen as a possible caretaker leader until the next election. Unlikely to want to go on much longer and may decide not to put his hat in the ring.

Was a close friend of the late John Smith, and is enthusiastic about links with the Labour Party, and was partly responsible for the latest extension of Lib-Lab links. Believed to be too serious and focused on policy issues rather than party campaigning.

Odds: 8-1



Malcolm Bruce, 54, MP for Gordon and the party's Treasury spokesman. Has been a vigorous critic of Gordon Brown's economic policies despite the growing cooperation between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Deeply disliked by the Government: if elected, all Liberal Democrat cooperation with Labour would cease immediately. A longshot for the leadership. Solid rather than flamboyant speaker, but always well-informed. Ran Paddy Ashdown's leadership campaign in 1988. Odds: 25-1




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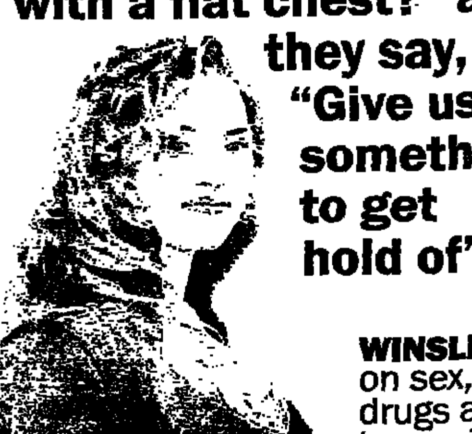
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# Breeder convicted of dog cruelty

**Peter Foster** reports case of prized animals that died of heatstroke in back of a van

A CRUFTS champion breeder escaped serious punishment yesterday despite being found guilty of allowing ten of her most prized Newfoundland dogs to die of heatstroke in the back of a van.

Phyllis Colgan, 51, faced thousands of pounds of fines and up to six months in prison after the incident on May 15 last year when she carried 16 dogs, including two puppies, in an unsuitable vehicle.

However, magistrates gave Colgan an absolute discharge after deciding that she had suffered enough, both financially and emotionally, through the loss of the Newfoundlands, valued at more than £100,000.

During the two-day hearing Colgan, a Crufts judge recognised as one of the top breeders in Europe, wept as she described how she had fought to save the dogs when she discovered them suffering from heat exhaustion after stopping at a service station on the M1.

The court was told how she and her son-in-law, Duncan Elliott, had hired an unsuitable windowless van with a translucent glass-fibre roof for a 130-mile journey between Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Matlock, Derbyshire.

Temperatures inside the van reached nearly 100F as the sun shone through the roof. Ten of the thick-coated animals died, including Ellie May, a reigning Crufts best-of-breed worth £10,000.

Colgan pleaded not guilty, saying that the deaths were an accident. She did not know that the van roof would make the interior heat up to such an extent.

Leicester magistrates convicted her and Elliott on 16 counts of causing unnecessary suffering, but accepted that they had never intended to harm the dogs.

John Metcalf, chairman of the Bench, said: "You failed to exercise reasonable foresight in choosing this vehicle ... But we are fully aware of the distress, trauma and financial loss you have already suffered."

They believed that nothing similar would happen again. Colgan, of Winster, Derbyshire, was ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Elliott, 34, of Bury St Edmunds, was also given an absolute discharge.

After the hearing, Dave Brown, the RSPCA Chief Inspector who led the investigation, welcomed the sentences. He said: "The case didn't fall into the normal category of cruelty that we deal with. Not for one moment did we feel she was deliberately cruel."

He considered Colgan fit to continue to own and breed animals.

Heddwyn Richards, chairman of the Newfoundland Club, of which Colgan is a member, said her future with the organisation would have to be reviewed. "This case serves as a reminder to all who transport dogs of the dangers of carrying animals in vehicles which are not suitable in hot weather."

A Kennel Club spokesman said that it would examine evidence from the trial. "There is a range of sanctions available, stretching up to a ten-year ban from all dog shows."

Colgan refused to comment as she left court, but her lawyer, Ronald Thwaites, QC, said that she was considering an appeal.



GREGOR McMURTRIE

Phyllis Colgan arriving at court yesterday. She said she had fought to save the dogs



# Sickness Benefit.

This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines - about 25 pence per person per day.

In return, the pharmaceutical industry will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

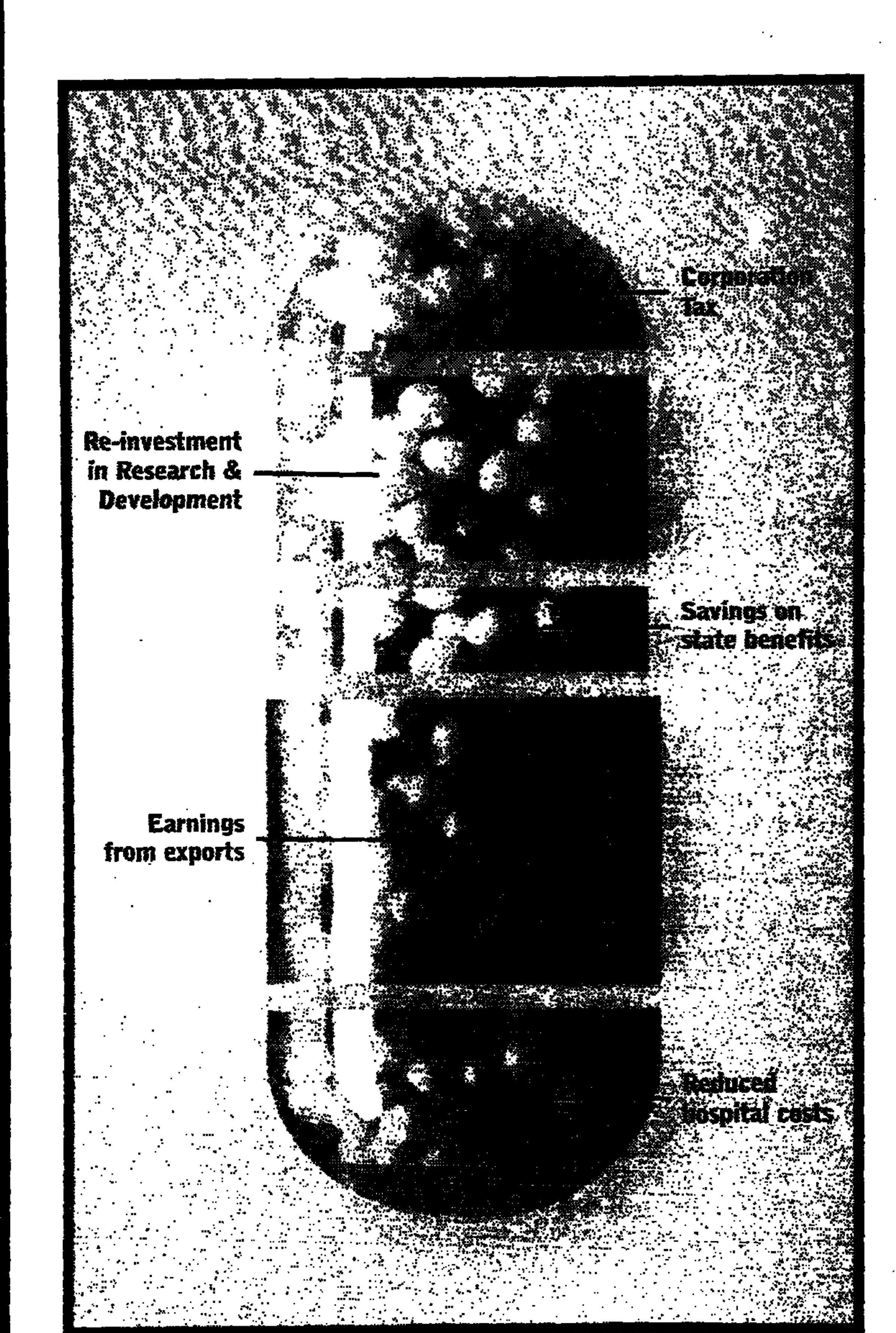
The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry that would fall sick. It would be the country.




abpi

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY

TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

# Charities thank generous readers

By Elizabeth Judge

READERS of *The Times* have been praised for their generosity by the charities that took part in the newspaper's Christmas Appeal. A total of £149,792 has been raised for three charities nominated by *The Times* at the beginning of last month.

The £65,792 raised for the Oxfam Bridge Appeal will build a bridge in Honduras to help people suffering after Hurricane Mitch. The loss of 98 bridges in November's hurricaneis making it difficult for aid workers to distribute food to those stranded in the countryside and for farmers to reach the markets. Simon Collings, of Oxfam, said: "The response to this appeal far exceeded what we would have expected. *Times* readers will have made a real contribution to farmers trying to reconstruct their livelihood."

A total of £59,000 has been raised for the Alzheimer's Research Trust, another charity nominated by *The Times*. The money will fund a PhD student for three years as part of a group researching the risk factors that can lead to Alzheimer's disease.

The amount raised for The Serengeti Cheetah Project was £25,000. It is the only current long-term study of wild cheetah, which, having once been widespread across much of Asia and Africa, are dwindling. Sarah Durant said the money would enable her to extend her study.

# Man is accused of 1991 killing

By Stephen Farrell

A SOUTH AFRICAN fitness trainer arrested in Los Angeles after an international police hunt lasting eight years appeared in court yesterday charged with the kidnap and murder of a wealthy British businessman.

Neville van de Meurwe, 29, who arrived at Heathrow on Tuesday after an extradition hearing in Los Angeles, was remanded in custody until January 27 by Dover magistrates after a brief hearing.

Simon Law, an accountant, vanished from his £500,000 17th-century farmhouse near Folkestone, Kent, on April 23, 1991. His body has not been found despite extensive searches of local woods.

Kent police investigations led them to South Africa and California, where Mr van der Meurwe, the son of a South African millionaire, was arrested by FBI agents in September last year in the car park of the Los Angeles gym where he worked as a personal trainer.

Mr Law, 35 in 1991, had a double first in mathematics from Oxford University and was choirmaster at his local church.

Tarn Phillips, Mr Law's girlfriend, and his parents, Jack and Nancy, were not in court yesterday.

Mrs Law said: "This has come as a surprise. The police have kept us in touch but we believed that there were extradition formalities still to go through."



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# Minimum pay threatens end of the au pair

**New regulations could put the cost beyond parents' reach, Alexandra Frean reports**

AU PAIRS could be left without a job and a home as a result of their intended inclusion in regulations on the national minimum wage, it was claimed yesterday.

Families said that the measure would double the cost of hiring an au pair from £40 to £80 a week. Employment agencies gave warning that it would impose red tape on parents.

Critics also said that the Department of Trade and Industry's measures would turn au pairs from guests in the family home into hourly paid workers. There are an estimated 25,000 foreign au pairs in this country, mainly from eastern Europe.

Home Office guidelines have hitherto exempted au pairs from employment legislation and specify that they come here not as workers, but "for the purpose of learning the English language". The rules say that au pairs should work in the home for a maximum of five hours a day in return for a "reasonable allowance", normally £40 to £45 a week.

But the DTI's decision to impose from April the national minimum wage at £3 an hour for 18 to 21-year-olds and at £3.60 for people aged 22 and over, will push up rates to £75 to £90 a week.

Sandra Laundau of the International Au Pair Association, which represents more than 100 au pair agencies worldwide, said: "We will be the only country in the world to treat au pairs as workers. Every other country sees them as students on a cultural exchange.

"If the families who employ au pairs say they simply can no longer afford to keep them, where will they go? There could be thousands on the streets."

The measures threaten to undermine the Government's policy of making childcare more affordable, particularly for lower-paid female workers such as nurses, for whom an au pair is often the only type of childcare they can afford.

They will also impose administrative burdens on both au pairs and their employers, many of whom will now be brought above the thresholds for paying tax and national insurance contributions on the au pair's wages.

Carola Herring, who employs an au pair to help to look after her children aged four and two and who is now expecting another baby, said that she would not be able to afford the new rates. "For me this will be a total disaster. I took on an au pair to help me with the children and the new baby. It is wonderful to have someone else here to help. But there is no way I could justify having someone around if I have to pay her £3.60 an hour."

Her au pair, Marcela Franekova, 23, who comes from Slovakia, said that she had come to Britain to learn the language and would be very sorry to have to go back home.

Steve and Clair Rapley from London, who employ a Turkish au pair to help look after their their three children, aged 13, eight and six, said that they would be able to afford the higher wages, but were concerned that the measures would break the bond of trust that exists between them and their au pair.

Mr Rapley, who works in the City, said: "The give and take of the relationship will go. As employers we will probably be much more demanding, making sure that things like the ironing are properly done."

Christine Little, chief executive of the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services, said that far from protecting au pairs from exploitation, the measures might make them more vulnerable to unscrupulous employers. "There is a possibility that the new laws may drive au pair recruitment underground with the very real danger that students could then be exploited."

The Department of Trade and Industry said that although au pairs had not been mentioned during the passage of the Minimum Wage Bill there had been no intention to exclude them. Families would be able to offset the costs of providing board and lodging against the minimum wage, to a maximum of £20 a week. "If people want to reduce the cost of employing an au pair, they could reduce the number of hours she worked. Au pairs should not be regarded as cheap labour," a spokesman said.

Leading article, page 23



Carola Herring, left, whose Slovak au pair, Marcela Franekova, helps with Lucinda and James, said the minimum wage would be a "disaster"

# Inmates challenge detention in 'brutal jail unit'

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

TWO armed robbers yesterday challenged Jack Straw over their detention in Britain's toughest jail unit amid allegations that it runs a "brutalised and coercive" regime.

A doctor at the special centre said that the health of one robber had deteriorated while kept in his cell for 23 hours a day and that if he remained in the unit he was likely to develop extreme psychotic symptoms, the High Court was told.

The Prison Service defended conditions at the close supervision centre in Woodhill prison, Buckinghamshire, and said they were much better than those found in segregation units at other jails.

Outside the court Phil Wheatley, director of the top-security jail, said: "If we did not have this unit we would segregate prisoners for quite long periods and move them around from prison to prison. We do not think that is humane."

Rifat Mehmet, 41, serving 27 years for robbery, and Sean O'Connor, serving 12 years for robbery and possession of firearms, who are mounting the challenge, are among 30 disruptive and dangerous offenders in the specially designed unit where it costs £75,000 a year to hold a prisoner.

The centre, which opened last year, has been hit by a "dirty protest" in which offenders soiled cells walls with their own excrement.

Mehmet and O'Connor, both high-risk category A prisoners, want to have the legal right to make representations to the prison authorities over a decision to place them in the unit, plus the right to know the general outline of reports submitted about their continued detention in the centre.

Tim Owen, counsel for the men, told the court that being put in the £3 milllion unit meant a prisoner was "branded" as one of the most dangerous and disruptive inmates in the prison system. He said that a doctor at Woodhill had said that Mehmet's continued detention in the unit was likely to "affect him psychologically and produce psychotic symptoms in the extreme".

O'Connor, who had been moved at least six times before arriving at the centre, claimed in court papers that the philosophy behind the regimes was based on "coercion". Mr Justice Turner said he would given his judgment at a later date.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## No rise in speeding penalty

A call by police to increase by £20 the penalties imposed on motorists caught speeding by roadside cameras has been rejected by ministers because of the lack of time for new legislation.

Police forces want to be allowed to keep an "administrative levy", charged on top of the fixed penalty for speeding, to fund the cost of speed cameras. They claim that seven out of eight cameras are not working because of shortages of cash to maintain the equipment and fit new film.

Chief constables claim that an extra £20 on top of the £40 fixed penalty would raise about £8 million to maintain existing cameras and install new ones. They estimate that the number of cameras could be quadrupled to 2,500 if money was channelled directly into police funds.

## Blast survivor

A 58-year-old man escaped serious injury when an explosion destroyed his flat and damaged others in Exmouth, Devon. The man was rescued from the rubble of the ground-floor flat and taken to hospital in Exeter.

## Birds poisoned

More rare birds of prey such as barn owls and red kites are dying after eating poisoned rodents. The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology found that 36 per cent of dead barn owls had signs of poisoning in 1995-96, up from 5 per cent in 1983-84.

## 3½ times too fast

A Porsche driver who was caught doing 3½ times the speed limit has been banned from driving for 18 months and fined £800. Andrew Diggory, 32, from Billericay in Essex, had driven at 106 mph in a 30 mph zone.

## Hanging death

Vicky Dawson, 13, who was found hanged by her school tie from a bunk bed at her home in Manchester last week, has died. It is thought she had slipped after using the tie to secure herself while putting up a poster of Leonardo DiCaprio.

## £4,100 for toy car

A green Matchbox toy Mercedes made in 1968 was sold for £4,100 at auction in London. The green paint was used only in a trial by the Matchbox company Lesney and the car is thought to be the only surviving example.

## Sea monster

A fisherman was not entirely delighted with the huge haul he caught in Lyme Bay, off Sidmouth in Devon. Chris Wason had been fishing for sole, but netted a dead cow. It is thought the animal had drowned in recent floods.

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# Drug spread shocks private school heads

**Teachers underestimated problem among pupils, reports Hannah Betts**

HEAD teachers at independent schools admitted yesterday that they had underestimated the drug problem among their pupils, especially among younger children.

A survey of pupils revealed that 30 per cent of 14 and 15 year-olds and more than 40 per cent of lower-sixthformers admitted to having sampled drugs. At least half of both groups had been invited to try drugs and more than 10 per cent of each age group had used drugs in the last month.

However, 30 per cent of heads had thought that below the sixth form, the proportion who had tried illegal drugs would be about 5 per cent.

Patrick Tobin, a head teacher who commissioned the study for the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that police, like schools, must bear some responsibility for the problem. He said: "I see no evidence that police are interested in the small fry. They're always after Mr Big. But that does mean that our small fry get caught up in this. Adults are involved who are going unpunished, and that leaves its mark.

"Too often, we see the headline 'Top School Rocked by Drugs Scandal' as a sign of weakness and failure, when really it is a sign of care and action. The real danger for us would be if we preferred silence to exposure. The problem is a reflection of society rather than our schools."

Mr Tobin, principal of Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh, is a past chairman of the Conference, which represents 240 leading private schools. The survey compared the responses of 173 head teachers with the reaction of more than 2,000 pupils. Broadly, the figures mirrored national statistics from research into drug-taking among young people.

Cannabis and poppers were found to be the drugs of choice, with Ecstasy use not a significant statistic. More than 70 per cent of all boarding schools were found to use some form of drug testing, mostly to monitor students previously identified as users.

Eighty per cent of boarding schools and 69 per cent of day schools expelled automatically for students caught supplying drugs. Almost half of all boarding schools expel pupils who bring drugs on to school premises. A similar number said they would inform police about drugs activity and most found the police co-operative.

On alcohol, one in three heads believed that about a quarter of their younger children probably drank alcohol regularly, but more than two-thirds of 14 and 15-year-olds said they had drunk alcohol in the last week.

## Expulsion is no longer the automatic sanction

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

INDEPENDENT schools are divided over whether to maintain a "zero tolerance" of drugs, but most now follow their associations' advice to suspend, rather than expel, first-time users of cannabis.

Most schools within the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference draw a distinction between cannabis and hard drugs, though few hesitate to expel dealers of either. Punishments for possessing cannabis vary widely.

Sevenoaks School in Kent makes random testing a condition of readmission for first-time offenders. Tommy Cookson, the headmaster, said that the school did not believe that automatic expulsion for drug offences was effective or reasonable. At Gordonstoun School in Elgin, pupils take part in drawing up the drug policy and suspension is the normal punishment for a first offence.

However, Rugby School, in Warwickshire expels all pupils found with drugs and tests those who are suspected of taking or selling them. A positive test does not attract immediate punishment, but repeat offending leads to expulsion.

Glenalmond College, Perthshire, warns pupils that any connection with drugs will result in immediate expulsion.

American private schools generally take a softer approach. Sidwell Friends School in Washington DC, Chelsea Clinton's *alma mater*, has no set policy, and all incidents are dealt with "case by case". St Paul's boarding school in New Hampshire has a disciplinary committee for offenders, but dismissal is not necessarily immediate.

Avon Old Farms School in Connecticut, however, immediately expels all students found with illegal drugs.

Fields near Exeter after the Exe overflowed. Forecasters say the West Country can expect a respite from the rain

# Firefighters act as water rescuers

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

TORRENTIAL rain has caused extensive flooding in the West Country and fire brigades have had to rescue several people trapped by the rising water.

One woman was helped from a first-floor window by emergency workers using a boat after her house in Chew Magna, Somerset, was flooded. A man was rescued by firefighters in Newton Abbot, Devon, after rising water forced him to climb on the roof of his car. At Westbury on Trym, near Bristol, firefighters towed a family of four to safety after they were trapped in their car. One elderly woman spent the night upstairs at her cottage at Iron Acton, near Bristol, after the ground floor was flooded. She waited until morning before calling firefighters as she did not want to trouble them.

Across England and Wales, the total number of river warnings has risen to 171: six red, 38 amber and 127 yellow. The Environment Agency has issued flood warnings across Kent and Sussex, saying that the saturated ground caused by continued rain poses a serious risk. The River Exe has overflowed at Exeter, flooding fields.

The Environment Agency said that its staff had dealt with more than a hundred incidents of flooding and landslips.

Forecasters said that the West Country could expect some respite from the rain during the next few days, as clouds move eastwards to deliver a drenching to the South East.

Weather forecast, page 26

# Inquest witness gets jail warning

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A SCHOOL lollipop-lady was warned yesterday by a coroner that she could go to jail if she was lying as she explained her role in a mysterious death.

Lena Dean, 72, was giving evidence to an inquest in Stockport into the death of Jean Mycock, 79. She insisted that she had tried to revive Mrs Mycock with the kiss of life when she collapsed at her home in Compstall, near Stockport. But a forensic pathologist, John Rutherford, said that bruising on her body suggested strangulation.

Mrs Dean could not explain why Mrs Mycock had made out a cheque to her for £5,000 shortly before her death, which Mrs Dean tried to cash the following day.

When friends of the dead woman called on her to take her to a church meeting, Mrs Dean tried to run out of the front door but finding it locked she went instead to crouch down in the front room. She felt sick, she told the inquest.

A police investigation into Mrs Mycock's death last February proved inconclusive.

Mrs Dean told the inquest she had gone to Mrs Mycock's house to ask about the cheque, and take some items for a church sale. Mrs Mycock had come to the door gasping for breath and begging for help. She had helped her back into her kitchen but she collapsed.

John Pollard, the South Manchester Coroner, warned her that she was giving evidence on oath: "If you are lying you will be guilty of perjury and will go to prison."

He recorded an open verdict. It was a "bizarre sets of circumstances", he said. "I am not persuaded beyond all reasonable doubt that Mrs Mycock was unlawfully killed but I am far from persuaded that on the balance of probabilities she died of natural causes."

# Will to win cost athlete his life

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN ATHLETE who took up bodybuilding after being beaten on the race track died from steroid abuse, an inquest ruled yesterday.

As a teenager Matthew Coak trained alongside future champions such as Roger Black, but after coming second to last in a race in 1986 he never put on his running shoes again.

He won hundreds of trophies for bodybuilding but destroyed his health with the steroids, the inquest in Bournemouth was told. "The person may look very fit but the heart is not capable of normal function." Milena Lesna, a consultant pathologist at Royal Bournemouth Hospital, said.

Mr Coak, 30, a father of two, collapsed on Christmas Eve at his home in Bournemouth. A clot from his enlarged heart starved his brain of oxygen and he died in hospital three days later.


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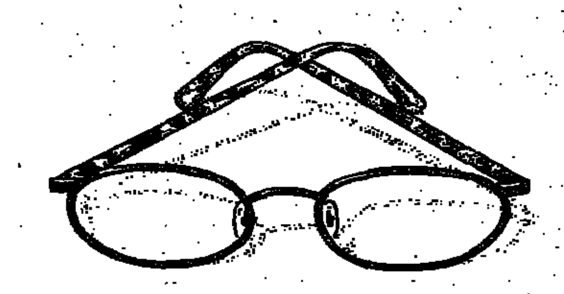
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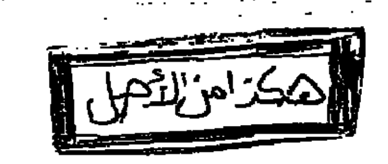


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# Expert calls for fluoride in salt and milk

**Helen Rumbelow** on a strategy for curbing tooth decay

FLUORIDE could be added to salt and milk rather than water so that consumers could choose this method of reducing tooth decay, dental experts said yesterday.

Those opposed to the idea of fluoride being added to the water supply as a national policy argue that people would not be able to opt out without buying expensive bottled water.

But Philip Holloway, Professor of Dentistry at the University of Manchester, says that offering it in salt or milk would ensure that enough fluoride was consumed to prevent decay while allowing people to choose non-adulterated alternatives.

"We know that fluoridised salt reduces caries levels, which is important in areas where fluoride cannot be added to the water supply," he said at the British Nutrition Foundation conference in London. In Scotland, where none of the regional companies is considering fluoridising water, there is a pilot study into fluoridised salt.

Flouridised salt was available to 150 million people round the world, Professor Holloway said. One example was the Caribbean, where there were difficulties in adding fluoride to the water supply. In Switzerland, it had been on sale for 40 years.

It would not be promoted here in a way that increased people's overall consumption of salt. "The experience in Switzerland shows that it does not increase salt consumption," he said.

Adding fluoride to milk was also being examined, with a trial under way at the Liverpool Dental School, where fluoridised milk was being given to schoolchildren with parents' permission.

Only 10 per cent of the population, notably the people of Birmingham, have fluoride added to their tap water.

Professor Holloway said that water fluoridation was the main way of reducing the increased rates of tooth decay among the poor. "Fluoridation of water transcends the social differences in the condition of teeth," he said. In Hartlepool, where the water is fluoridised, 0.92 of five-year-olds had tooth decay, compared with a rate of 1.09 per cent in southwest Surrey, a relatively affluent area.

Ursula Arens, a senior scientist at the foundation, said children at greater risk of tooth decay, such as those from poor families, should be given fluoride drops if they did not have access to fluoridised water.

## Say cheese and save your smile

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

THE British habit of serving cheese after pudding, sneered at by Francophiles who eat their crème brulée after the Camembert, has been approved by dentists.

Likewise, a handful of peanuts is the perfect chaser to a glass of bitter gin and tonic, according to a report by the British Nutrition Foundation on preventing tooth decay.

People should stop thinking that sugar alone causes cavities, and concentrate on foods that leave their mouth acidic, said Mike Edgar, one of the authors of the report, *Oral Health: Diet and Other Factors*. It advises changing behaviour that was previously thought to be tooth friendly. For example, if you drink orange juice for breakfast do not brush your teeth for at least half an hour afterwards.

Teeth start to rot when the mouth's acid levels rise above a certain point — where ph levels are below 5.5 — which makes the minerals in tooth enamel liquefy and leach away. This rise in acid levels can be caused by the conversion of sugar by the bacteria in plaque, but also by naturally acidic foods such as orange juice or the lemon slice in a gin and tonic. An apple can have the same damaging effect as a Mars Bar.

After an orange juice, the acidity in the mouth will make tooth enamel soft and vulnerable. Brushing will begin to rub away the top surface. Instead, according to Professor Edgar, other kinds of foods should be eaten to counteract acid levels. The two most effective are cheese and peanuts, thought to be good acid fighters because of high protein levels. The calcium in cheese may also help to strengthen teeth. It is best eaten no later than 20 minutes after the acidic foods.

SIMON WALKER



Sentimental attachment: one of this year's models congratulating Saint Laurent, whose enduring success offers no incentive for him to move on

# Saint Laurent replays his greatest hits

FROM LISA ARMSTRONG, FASHION EDITOR, IN PARIS

YVES SAINT LAURENT encapsulates much about France today: the enduring traditions, the bourgeois, set-in-aspic elegance from the 1970s, and the sentimental attachment to the past.

Yesterday, as usual, he received a standing ovation when he showed his haute couture collection in the heavily gilded and frescoed salons of the Hotel Intercontinental in Paris. But the applause, as so often at his shows, was for past achievements rather than anything the audience, which included YSL faithfuls Catherine Deneuve and Jacqueline de Ribes, had just seen.

Saint Laurent was a great designer of his day. It's hard to think of any British designer who would still be enjoying plaudits 40 years after starting out. On the other hand, the encores mean that there's no incentive for him to move his collection on beyond the dire pussycat bows and dated pleated trousers that came — oh so slowly — down his catwalk.

This was in effect, a rehash of many of his past hits: the see-through chiffon shirts, the toga evening dresses, the square-shouldered jackets, the safari suits ... We've seen them all many, many times. And although his couture client base is clearly drawn from the more mature set, the averagely chic, cosmopolitan client, whether she is 25 or 65, does not dress like this any more.

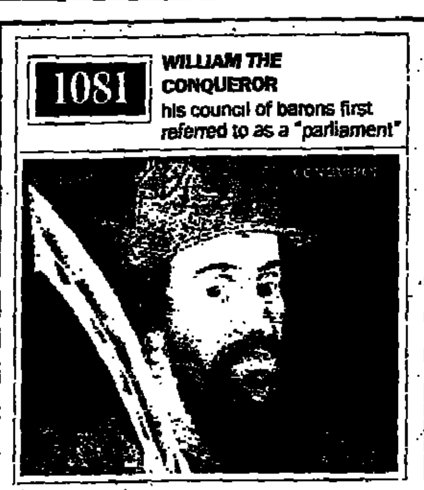
The evening wear was better, not because there was anything new but because much of what Saint Laurent produces for night really is classic. A couple of black chantilly lace and chiffon column dresses whipped around the body like mist and another black fitted evening dress, with a bodice of lace that clung to the model as snugly as a tattoo, were the stars that shone like good deeds in a very dull world. And he still knows how to please the photographers: a rather silly wedding dress that consisted of silk roses fashioned into a bikini used up more film than the entire preceeding 45 minutes.

The Paris couture week comes to an end today after 24 shows in which the likes of the Russian designer Yudashkin and the artsy Dutch duo Viktor and Rolf were invited to keep up the numbers of a depleted regiment of traditional French couture houses.



Vieux jeu: 1999 versions of the square-shouldered jacket with pussycat bow and an evening dress, but will his chic clients still wear them?

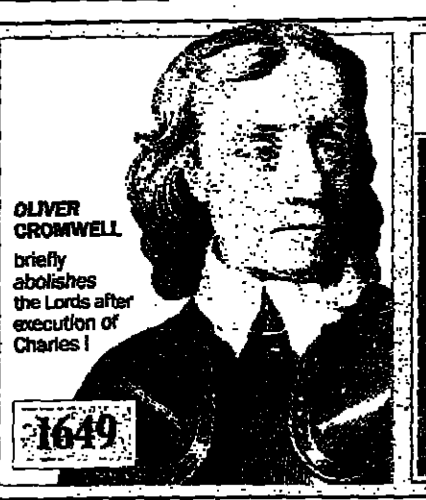
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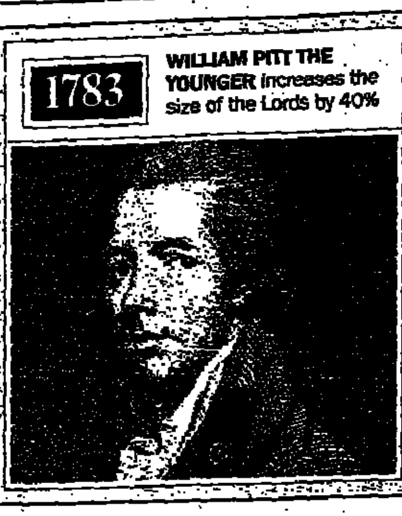












# History dignifies Kings' hooligans

**Alan Hamilton** traces the lineage of a chamber that has gracefully survived the clamourings of reform

A GENTLEMANLY dispute is rumbling among the 759 hereditary members of the Upper House of the Mother of Parliaments. Who can lay claim to the oldest title in the Lords?

Richmond Herald, who may sound like a local newspaper but is a senior genealogist at the College of Arms, has been summoned to adjudicate. The argument is certainly arcane and probably irrelevant but, if the proposed reforms of the House of Lords come to pass, it could become an important footnote to those who write the history of the last parliamentary assembly in the democratic world to which admission is largely by accident of birth.

One of the combatants jousting in the lists is Lord de Ros, a furniture maker who lives in Ireland and whose attendance record at Westminster appears to be nil, but whose title was created by Henry III in 1264. Against him is Lord Mowbray, Segrave and Stourton, known for his piratical eyepatch, decent attendance record and a scion, Ed, who is a BBC newsreader.

Mowbray was created by Edward I in 1283 but there is some dispute as to whether de Ros did anything about his summons to the peerage 19 years earlier or whether he put it behind the clock and forgot about it.

It may not matter a jot but the Lords is deeply conscious of its history, blurred at the edges though it may be, and it is a reminder that most hereditary titles represented in the Lords are far more recent than is generally imagined. A surprising number of English noble houses are Victorian.

But every new royal dynasty, from Plantagenet to Hanover and most especially Stuart, has created its clutch of peerages as rewards to the loyal.

The Lords traces its origins, if dimly, to the witenagemot, or assembly of wise men, with which English Saxon kings surrounded themselves. They were the most prominent landowners and churchmen, and it was part of their role to choose the next king, not always plumping for the obvious heir but selecting the best man for the job.

History took a slightly backward step with the arrival of William the Conqueror, who imposed French feudal law, awarded vast tracts of land to his hooligan henchmen, and summoned them to counsel, mainly when he wanted money. A document of 1081 refers for the first time to one of those councils as "Parliament".

Magna Carta of 1215 was the first serious indication that the barons had grown angry at the bullying and autocratic ways of monarchy. In 1265 Simon de Montfort took the barons' cause a stage further: furious at Henry III's constant demands for cash and his unwillingness to let those who coughed up decide how it should be spent, de Montfort captured and briefly imprisoned the king, and chaired the Parliament himself.

The experiment was brief: de Montfort was subsequently defeated and killed at the Battle of Evesham, his peers having taken ther view that he was just as unreasonable and overbearing as the king himself. But the idea of parliaments caught on and Henry's successor Edward I held them regularly, bringing in knights of the shires and burgesses of the towns, who in time would come to meet as a separate chamber and call itself the Commons.

> 'They were called peers to show that duke, earl and viscount were all equal in the House'

It is impossible to pinpoint the origin of the hereditary principle, but during the 15th century the Lords Temporal, as distinct from the churchmen who packed the chamber, began gradually to emerge as a body whose rights and lands came to them by inheritance.

All changed in 1539 with Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. Abbots and priors who had been entitled to sit in Parliament were booted out, leaving only bishops as Lords Spiritual.

They were outnumbered for the first time by the Lords Temporal, who collectively called themselves peers to indicate that, whether duke, earl or viscount, they were equal in the aristocracy of the Upper House.

During Elizabeth I's reign there were never more than 26 bishops and 65 lords; by the end of her reign much of the old nobility had disappeared, either through extinction or execution for treason. James I arrived from Scotland after his accession in 1603 and created a band of new peers from among Stuart supporters.

The Lords divided evenly during the Civil War but was abolished by the Commonwealth for a brief period after Charles I's execution in 1649. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 and the subsequent Bill of Rights, which finally established the supremacy of Parliament over the Crown, might have done for the Lords. But some of the strongest supporters of reform were the old noblemen of the Lords itself. They kept their seats.

The great Reform Acts of the 19th century might well have been strongly opposed by the Lords, but the Upper House chose the path of strategic withdrawal from blocking the Commons proposals. They were nothing like as supine in 1909, when they blocked the Budget proposals of the Chancellor, David Lloyd George. Their intransigence resulted in a significant nail in their coffin; Asquith's Parliament Act of 1911 removed the power of the Lords to destroy Commons legislation, allowing them merely to delay it. The powers of delay were further restricted in an Act of 1949.

Harold Macmillan introduced one of the most significant reforms in the Lords' history in 1958, when he invented the life peer, allowing unlimited numbers of persons of either sex to be appointed to the Upper House but with no hereditary rights.

Now Tony Blair is attempting a much more radical reform. It is unlikely to cause much loss of sleep to Lord de Ros, but Lord Mowbray has reason to be more than a little miffed.

Leading article, page 23


Lord Mowbray, Segrave and Stourton lays claim to the oldest title in the Upper House

## Mowbray mourns loss of mavericks

By Mark Inglefield
Political Reporter

LORD MOWBRAY feels that the loss of hereditary peers will be a loss to British political life, not least because of the fact that their privileged position allowed them a large degree of independence.

"Usually we have had enough (money) not to be too ambitious, whereas in the other House they usually do it for themselves. We have a more long-term view," he said.

"Of course I'm sad it's coming to an end. We've been a good example by and large. I can see the faults with us, mind. None of us has a God-given right to govern."

Lord Mowbray retired from active political life in 1980 after serving as Tory opposition Whip and the Government's Environment spokesman in the late 1960s and 70s. Since then he has worked in business and oversees the running of a small farm.

Lord Mowbray served as a lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards during the Second World War, losing an eye while fighting in France. As a result, he sports the black eyepatch that has made him one of the most easily recognisable figures in the chamber.

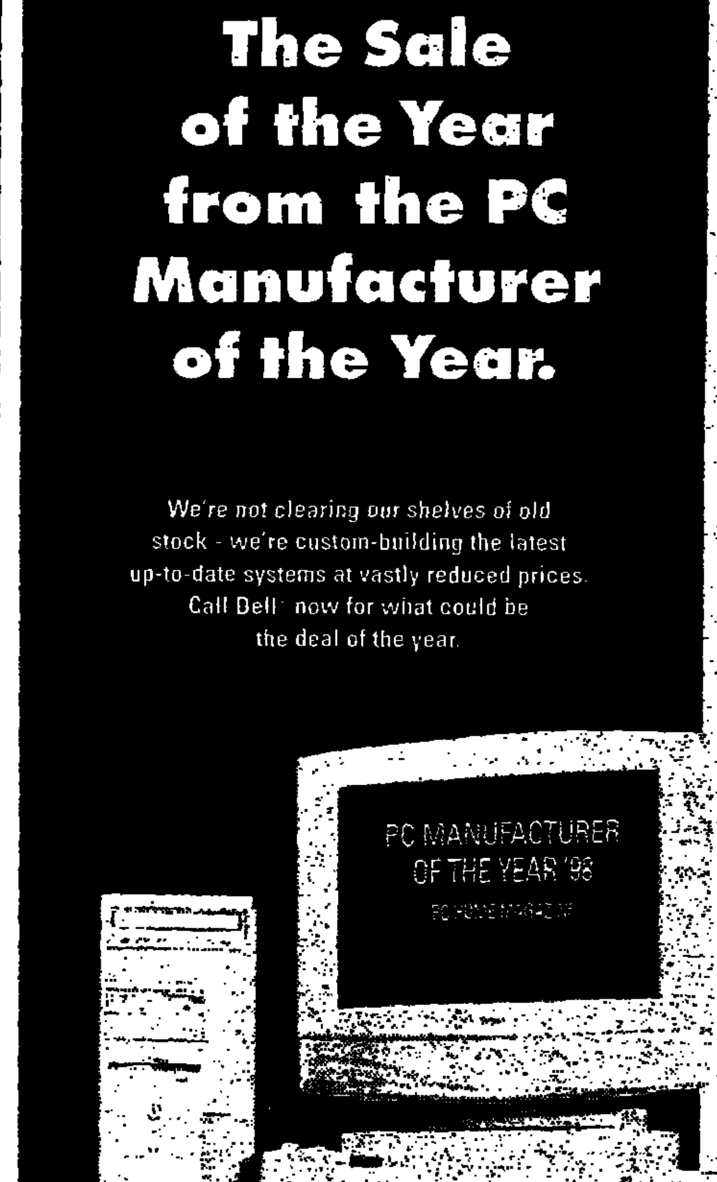
Although he sees change in the Lords as inevitable, Lord Mowbray feels that the Government has introduced its proposed reforms in a heavy-handed fashion.

"We've had the whole thing thrust down our throats," he said. "It should have been a debate between all the parties."

LAURA ASHLEY




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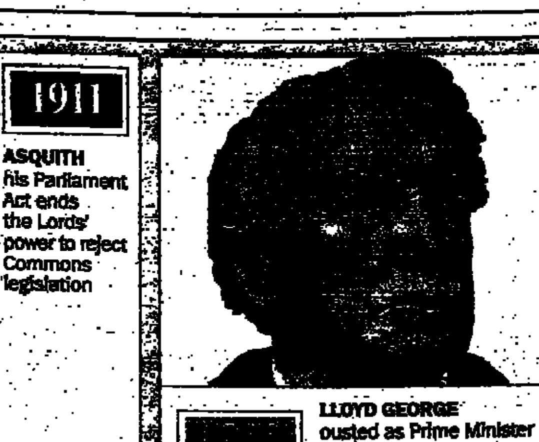
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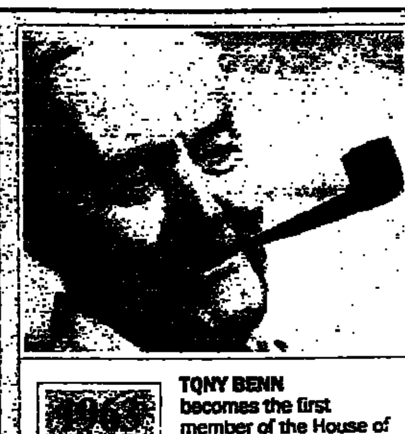




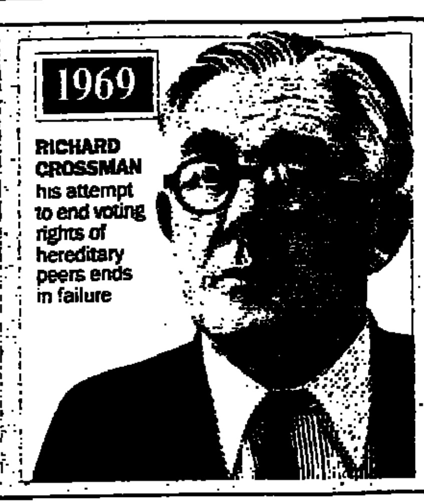
**1911** **ASQUITH** his Parliament Act ends the Lords' power to reject Commons legislation



**LLOYD GEORGE** ousted as Prime Minister after selling peerages to boost Liberal party funds



**1958** **HAROLD MACMILLAN** introduces life peerages, and women, into the Lords for the first time



**TONY BENN** becomes the first member of the House of Lords to renounce his title



**1969** **RICHARD CROSSMAN** his attempt to end voting rights of hereditary peers ends in failure

**TONY BLAIR** attempts the first serious Lords reform for 30 years **1999**

# Commons keeps power to lord it

## White Paper says Upper House's distinctive role must not threaten first chamber, writes James Landale

THE House of Lords must remain subordinate to the House of Commons regardless of any reforms of its role, composition and powers, the Government said yesterday.

In its detailed terms of reference to the Royal Commission set up yesterday, the Government said: "The second chamber must have a distinctive role and must neither usurp, nor threaten, the supremacy of the first chamber."

The 50-page White Paper, *Modernising Parliament: Reforming the House of Lords*, said that a new-look Upper House should have enough "legitimacy" to do its job but must remain "subordinate".

Although the Government has given the Royal Commission a broad remit, the specific terms of reference in the White Paper give the clearest indication yet of what a future Lords might look like. The commission must report by December 31 this year.

The Government says that a reformed Lords should take "particular account of the present nature of the constitutional settlement, including the newly-devolved institutions, the impact of the Human Rights Act and developing relations with the European Union".

The key point is the emphasis on possibly having members of the Scottish parliament, and Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies sitting in the reformed Lords. "The second chamber could provide a forum where diversity could find expression and dialogue, and where such an expression could work towards strengthening the Union."

### POWERS

Many of the Lords' powers exist only in convention and are rarely used. The Government suggests that these should be either "institutionalised" or reduced. "A better approach might be to reduce the theoretically-available powers, recognising that they might as a consequence be used more frequently." The commission could look at how long the Lords could delay legislation; whether Bills introduced in the Lords could be forced through; the need for a procedure when peers repeatedly send Bills back to the Commons; the possibility of formal conciliation procedures; and whether peers should be able to delay secondary legislation.

### COMPOSITION

The Royal Commission will be able to consider a nominated chamber, one which is directly or indirectly elected, or a mixed chamber. "The Government's own view is that the best solution is likely to be found among the more conventional options of nomination and election." The White Paper comes down firmly against having too many directly elected members, saying that it could "share many of the disadvantages of a wholly elected second chamber".

Instead, it says that a mixed House "allows a variety and breadth of membership and the combination of the best features of the present House with an indubitably democratic method of selection".

### RELIGIONS

The Government recognises the multicultural nature of British society and "shall be looking for ways of increasing the representation in the Lords of other religious traditions", in particular the established Church of Scotland.

### EUROPE

The White Paper suggests that a reformed Lords should have an increased role in scrutinising the European Union. It suggests that the commission "may also wish to examine whether there is a possible role which could be played by MEPs in the second chamber". The role of current European committees in the Lords could be expanded.

### JUDICIAL ROLE

The commission should examine whether the second chamber should remain the highest court of the land, with law lords sitting in both judicial and legislative roles, but the White Paper says that it would not be able to examine the creation of a separate supreme judicial authority.

**THE HOUSE OF LORDS TODAY**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conservative | 172 | 304 | 476 |
| Labour | 157 | 18 | 175 |
| Liberal Democrats | 45 | 24 | 69 |
| Crossbench | 119 | 202 | 321 |
| Other | 10 | 88 | 98 |
| Bishops | - | - | 26 |
| Peers on leave of absence or without writs of summons: | | | 130 |
| Total house: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

**ESTIMATED INTERIM LORDS IF CRANBORNE DEAL SURVIVES**

(91 hereditaries remain, about 57 new Labour life peers appointed)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Conservative | 172 | 41 | 213 |
| Labour | 212 | 2 | 214 |
| Liberal Democrats | 45 | 3 | 48 |
| Crossbench | 119 | 28 | 146 |
| Other | | | 10 |
| Bishops | | | 26 |
| Total house: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

CHRIS HARRIS



Leading ladies: Baroness Jay of Paddington and Commons counterpart Margaret Beckett

# Balance to tip in Labour's favour

By James Landale

LABOUR is poised to become the largest single party in the House of Lords for the first time once hereditary peers have been removed.

Tony Blair has promised to appoint about 50 Labour peers to bring the Labour benches up to "broad parity" with the Conservatives. The most likely option would be for Labour to have one more peer than the Tories.

The Government indicated yesterday that it was "minded" to accept a deal put forward by Lord Weatherill, the crossbench convenor, to save 91 hereditary peers during the transition house. An amendment to this effect will be introduced during the Lords stages of the Bill scrapping the voting and sitting rights of hereditary peers.

If the 91 hereditary peers remain, both parties would have about 212 peers, the Liberal Democrats with 48, and the crossbenches with 147. The numbers are not fixed: the Liberal Democrats in particular believe that they should have more than three hereditary peers staying on.

The powers and functions of the House of Lords will remain the same during the transition period, which ministers insist will last for only a few years. The 26 Church of England bishops will remain in the Lords during this time.


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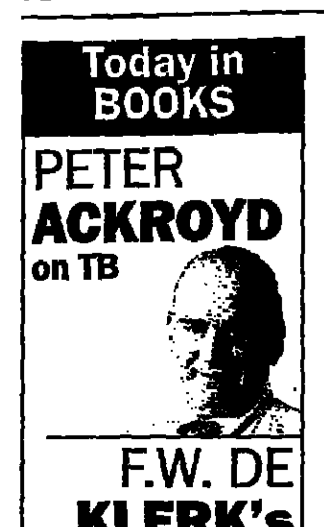
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TRIUMPH **OF LOVE** Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Pages 40–42

# Tory fixer may swing opponents of reform

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

HE is an arch political fixer but chairmanship of the Royal Commission was one "fix" even Lord Wakeham could not have anticipated. When he was sounded out about Lords reform in a call from Downing Street last week, he thought that he was being consulted about possible names for the commission.

It crossed his mind he was being considered as a member but certainly not as chairman. Like many others at Westminster, he assumed the job would go to Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet Secretary.

The Government's thinking became clearer at a meeting with Tony Blair on Monday. The Prime Minister decided that the job needed a political heavyweight and he was keen to attract a senior Tory to pull round opponents to reform. As a former Leader of the Commons and the Lords, Lord Wakeham also has a rare political insight into the workings and purposes of both Houses. He also knows everyone and

**MAN IN THE CHAIR**

has the ability to bang heads together to reach consensus.

Mr Blair was extremely keen — the two men have forged a close relationship following the Labour victory with the peer offering sage advice on a range of matters including the Royal Family and privacy issues. Lord Wakeham is also credited with toughening up the rules between newspapers and the paparazzi following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

But Mr Blair did not know Lord Wakeham's views about Lords reform and doubted that he had the time to do it. The chairman of the Press Complaints Commission has never uttered a word on the subject in public. But at an hour-long meeting in Downing Street on Monday, Lord Wakeham made clear he was no "revolutionary" and he did not wish to see a revamped Lords diminish the standing of the Commons as the "pre-eminent chamber in Parliament". As a former MP and



Wakeham: has a close relationship with Blair

Chief Whip, he has a deep sense of parliamentary tradition. He was sceptical about an elected second chamber and hoped it would continue to attract people from all walks of life to act as "a proper revising chamber".

Lord Wakeham, 66, also believes that the Upper House should have an independent streak and should not be frightened to challenge the Government. Yesterday he did not wish to discuss the manner of his appointment, but said: "I'm delighted to accept the job and I think the terms of reference are sufficiently wide to let us look at the issue in the round. I will seek to build a consensus on the best way forward.

He was expecting to meet Sir Richard Wilson, Cabinet Secretary, and Sir Quentin Thomas, head of the Cabinet Office constitution unit, to discuss arrangements for the commission, which is expected to have about ten members. Gerald Kaufman has been nominated by Labour and Rabbi Julia Neuberger for the Lib Dems. Lord Wakeham's appointment was largely acclaimed yesterday as "a masterstroke" but some expressed reservations whether he would get to grips with "the broad picture" of the reform.

Lord Wakeham, a former chartered accountant, lost his first wife, Roberta, in the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel, Brighton, and suffered serious leg injuries. He subsequently married his secretary, Alison Ward, who had helped to nurse him.



Viscount Cranley, who was "relishing the challenge of taking on duties in the Lords"

## Realism tinged with regret

VISCOUNT CRANLEY, son and heir of the 7th Earl of Onslow, has long been resigned to the fact that he probably will not follow his father onto the red leather benches of the Lords (Mark Inglefield writes).

"The concept of hereditary presence in the governing chamber in the 21st century is

**THE PEER'S SON**

unacceptable," the viscount admits. The earldom was created in 1801 and the family has also produced three Speakers for the Commons.

Rupert Cranley, 31, an insurance broker, laments the fact that he will not be allowed to play a part in the nation's political affairs. "I have a huge interest in current affairs and politics and was relishing the challenge of taking on these duties and responsibilities," he said. "I felt I might make a contribution with an independent mind."

**TIMETABLE FOR REFORM**

**January 20:** Bill to expel hereditary peers introduced. Royal Commission is set up to examine further changes.
**December 31, 1999:** deadline for Royal Commission to report.
**Spring 2000:** joint committee of both Houses of Parliament is set up to consider recommendations of the Royal Commission and to clarify the detailed changes.
**Summer 2000:** committee likely to report. Government considers response and draws up draft legislation.
**November 2000:** first possible opportunity for Government to introduce legislation making changes.
**2001:** if progress of commission, committee and Government is delayed, this is most likely year for legislation to be introduced.

## New body will vet potential life peers

**APPOINTMENTS**

BY JAMES LANDALE

TONY BLAIR will create a powerful appointments commission to vet potential life peers once hereditary lords have been removed.

The body's members will be appointed by the Government under the rules laid down by Sir Len Peach, the Commissioner for Public Appointments. These will ensure that the body is not packed with politically partisan appointees.

The White Paper said that the commission will contain three representatives of the main political parties, an independent chairman and at least three independent members.

The Prime Minister will give up his sole right of patronage to recommend life peers to the Queen. Mr Blair will allow the commission to nominate independent crossbench peers. He has also promised not to interfere over the nominees put forward by the other party leaders.

However, the Prime Minister will retain control over the most important power, namely how many new peers each party should have. The Political Honours Scrutiny Committee, much of whose work will be taken over by the appointments commission, will continue to vet honours such as knighthoods.

The White Paper said the commission will operate "an open and transparent nominations system for cross-bench peers, both actively inviting public nominations and encouraging suitable bodies to make nominations".

## Prince and dukes give up their seats

**ROYAL ROLE**

BY JAMES LANDALE

THE Prince of Wales and four royal dukes will be thrown out of the House of Lords when hereditary peers lose their right to sit and vote.

After talks with the Royal Family, the Government has agreed that the Prince and the Dukes of Edinburgh, York, Gloucester and Kent should be treated like any other hereditary peers.

The move will signal the end of almost 800 years of royal representation in Parliament. In practice it will make no difference: the Dukes of Edinburgh, Kent and York have never spoken. The last time the Prince of Wales spoke was in 1975. It had been thought that royal peers might be allowed to stay on. But the Royal Family is understood to have accepted that the move would be unpopular with the public.

However, the Government has thrown a lifeline to six hereditary peers of first creation. These are people who have been given an hereditary title rather than a life peerage and who can pass it on. They include: the Earl of Snowdon, the Earl of Longford, the former Labour minister, Viscount Whitelaw, the former Tory Cabinet minister, and three more Tories — Lord Aldington, Viscount Eccles, and Lord Erroll of Hale.

Most are of an age that might preclude them from staying on during the interim chamber. All the peers yesterday received letters from Tony Blair asking if they wanted to receive life peerages.

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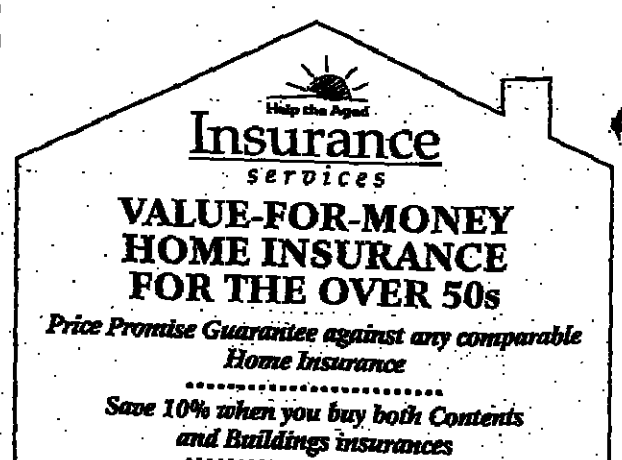
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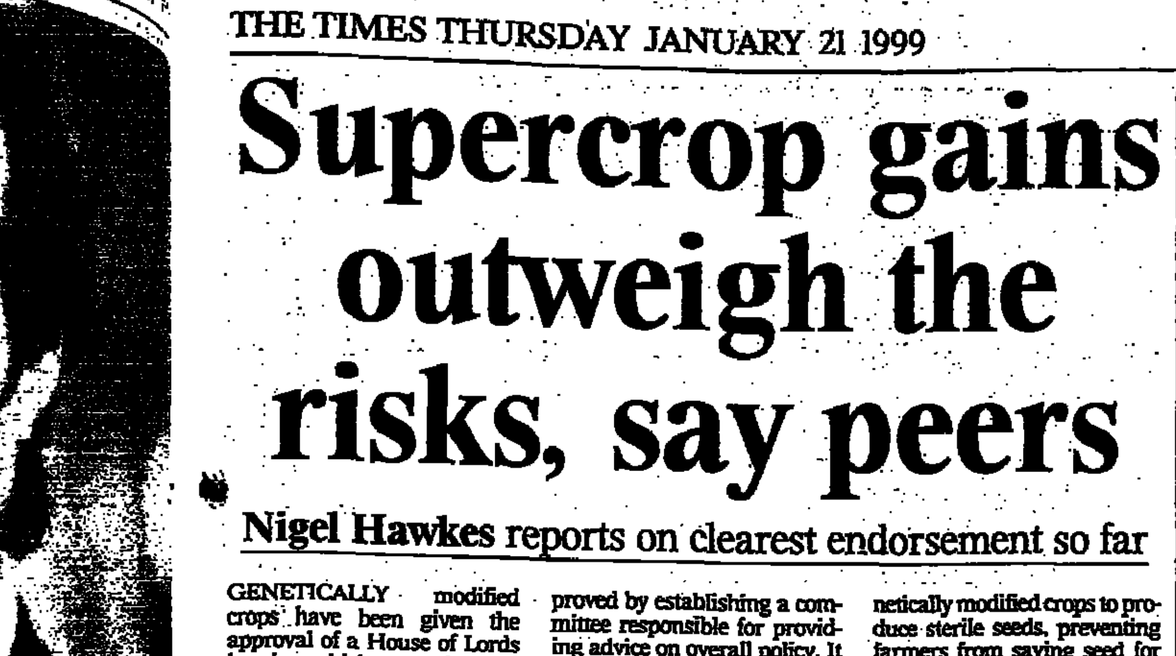



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# Supercrop gains outweigh the risks, say peers

**Nigel Hawkes** reports on clearest endorsement so far

GENETICALLY modified crops have been given the approval of a House of Lords inquiry which says that the benefits far outweigh the risks.

Agriculture, industry, consumers and even the environment stand to gain, the Select Committee on the European Communities concludes in a report published today. It is the clearest endorsement in Britain of a controversial technology that has made much quicker strides in the United States than in Europe.

Monsanto, the leading company in the field, is delighted by the judgment of the committee, which set out to examine changes in the European directives governing genetically modified crops in the European Community.

But Greenpeace accused the committee, chaired by Lord Reay, of being "the only group in our society that has fallen for Monsanto's advertising campaign". The environmental group renewed its call for a ban on use of the crops.

Lord Reay listed the benefits as "higher crop yields, better nutritional content in foods, fewer herbicides and pesticides, and cheaper food for consumers. But like any new technology there are risks and it should only be applied when they can be assessed and controlled."

The committee acknowledges that Britain's regulatory structure is "very rigorous" but believes that it can be improved by establishing a committee responsible for providing advice on overall policy. It could examine such issues as the long-term impact of genetically modified crops on the environment. The members should include consumer representatives.

Lord Reay said that we "know more about novel foods than we do about staples". The potato, for example, would not pass the scrutiny of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes because it can in certain circumstances produce harmful poisons.

He called for much quicker approval of genetically modified crops in Europe, where it typically takes two years compared with seven months in the United States.

The committee supports the controversial "terminator" technology, which causes genetically modified crops to produce sterile seeds, preventing farmers from saving seed for use in the next season. In the developed world, provided that farmers' economic prosperity is not unduly affected, "we do not consider sterile crops to be a problematic development".



Reay: says that benefits include fewer pesticides

Advantages include consistent seed quality and no risk of the creation of "superweeds" by the escape of pesticide-resistant genes. But in the developing world, "most farmers would view the prospect of having to buy seeds each year with grave concern".

Equally controversial is the Lords' view that modified crops have much to offer organic farmers. This contradicts the view of the Soil Association that they are "the most serious threat ever to the organic farming movement". The Lords say that genetically modified crops require fewer pesticides and fertilisers.

John Sauven, a Greenpeace campaigner, said that the report indicated how out of touch the House of Lords had become. "Genetically engineered food is inherently unpredictable and once such crops escape or are deliberately released into the environment and the food chain, they cannot be recalled.

"In light of this, we should act in a precautionary way and halt the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment."

# Mobile phone campaign fails to conquer world

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE first global mobile phone service, hailed as the ultimate status symbol for the travelling executive, is in trouble after being dogged by technical and commercial problems.

Six months after the last two satellites were launched to complete the £3.5 billion Iridium phone network, not a single handset has been sold in Britain. The service, developed with a great deal of hype and due to be switched on last September has few customers elsewhere.

Only about 20 per cent of the world is covered by conventional mobile phones. Iridium was intended to provide a comprehensive worldwide service via a network of 66 satellites, but Motorola and Kyocera, the makers of the phones, have not produced enough handsets. The few that have been made have suffered from poor reception and it has often proved impossible to make or maintain calls. Industry experts believe that faults were linked to the software designed to pass the calls between satellites.

One industry source said yesterday that he had been telephoned by somone using a £2,000 Iridium handset and it had been like "talking to a Martian", and that "half the words would lose a syllable".

A spokeswoman for Orange, which is Iridium's partner in Britain, said: "We are still testing the service and as soon as it meets our standards we will offer it. I cannot confirm when."

Lance Stevens, of Orange, added that recent trials had not been encouraging. "The chance of making a successful call was not very high, in fact it was pretty low to be honest. It's not perfect but it is getting close." He said he hoped that the service would be launched in February.

The problems in Britain are being mirrored elsewhere in Europeand it remains to be seen whether the company can survive the delays. Because its satellites are in low orbits, they need to be replaced every five to seven years.


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SIMON BROOKE-WEBB




Helping hand: Neil Adams and Laura Forester of Dean Close School, left, with Daniel Kear and Hannah Lewis of neighbouring Belmont School

# Neighbours offer total support

By George Pendle

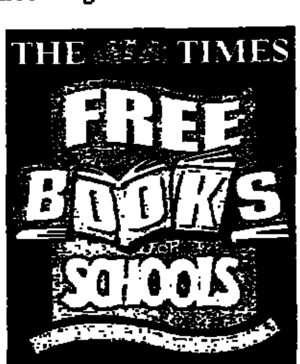
*PUPILS* at an independent school are saving Free Books for Schools tokens from *The Times* to boost the total of a nearby special school in the scheme.

The book offer has helped to build the relationship between Dean Close School, in Cheltenham, where boarding fees are £4,685 a term, and nearby Belmont School, which has 100 children aged between five and 16 who have learning and emotional difficulties.

Vanessa Aris, head of careers at Dean Close, as well as chairman of governors at Belmont, said: "The link between the two schools started some time ago and it's a link we've fostered. A broom cupboard was cleared out to use as a library at Belmont and when the tokens started, I saw this as our chance to help fill it."

An inter-house competition has been organised at Dean Close to encourage the 440 pupils to collect. They are hoping to amass enough tokens to provide 100 books for Belmont and in return are being offered the chance of work experience in special needs teaching.

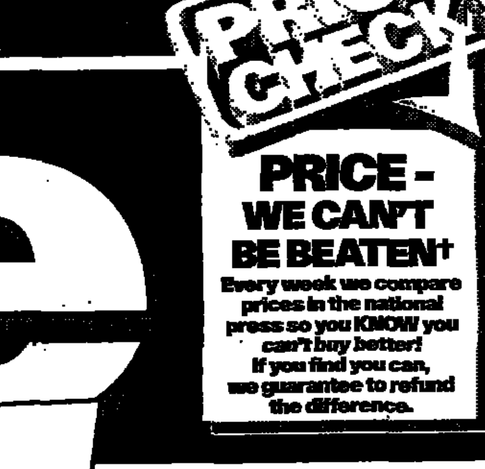
Tokens are appearing in *The Times*, *The Sun*, *The Sunday Times*, the *News of the World* and on Walkers snacks. The offer helpline number is 0845 6040312 and today's token is on page 26.





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# US denies deal to hand over Stasi spy files

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE United States denied yesterday that it intends to hand over secret files taken from East German police archives after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The German authorities suggested this week that Washington and Bonn were about to pool secret information and thus unleash a comprehensive hunt for spies.

But US officials in Washington and in Bonn now say no such deal has been struck, although German researchers may be allowed to trawl through some of the files held by the CIA.

America and Germany hold two key pieces of the espionage jigsaw puzzle. The solution would unmask every one of the 4,500 East German agents who penetrated Western institutions between 1969 and 1987.

The CIA acquired in 1989 what are dubbed as the "crown jewels" of the Stasi's espionage wing (known as the HVA): that is, the true identities, pay and codenames of each agent.

The Germans, on the other hand, have just cracked the code of four magnetic tapes recovered from HVA headquarters. They thus know precisely — 180,564 reports are on record — what information was discovered by Communist agents. If the two sources of information are put together — and the Germans are saying they fit like lock and key — it will be clear how deeply the East Germans (and thus Moscow) penetrated the West.

For the United States this should be of particular interest because the decoded German archives give details of operations in North America. The German side was so sure of the value of this information that it leaked plans for a trade with Washington.

Sandy Berger, National Security adviser to the Clinton Administration, was going to hand over a caseload of microfilms next month, the German authorities said.

The Clinton Administration now denies this, repeating its long-standing reluctance to surrender its HVA files. The reason seems to be that previously unknown American networks and double agents would be exposed.

Certainly, the pooling of the United States and German data would unravel some of the great Cold War mysteries. For example, it might be possible to work out the scope of East German infiltration of the Vatican. Since the killing of the Swiss Guard commander last year, there has been speculation as to the Communist network in the Vatican state.

Some old secrets, not critical for national security but politically embarrassing, are said to be tucked away in the German files. These include contacts between a Stasi agent and the Labour Party in the early 1980s and with social democratic parties throughout Europe.

The German tapes, known as Sira (System, Information and Research), have been held by the Berlin Agency which stores and processes all the East German secret police archives. Two computer technicians broke the code shortly before Christmas.

## Nuclear film leads to trial

**Moscow: In a case that highlights the durability of communist ideas of free speech, a journalist and a naval captain go on trial today in Vladivostok accused of spying (Alice Lagnado writes). Grigori Pasko is accused of spying for Japan after film he shot of a Russian naval tanker dumping nuclear waste was shown on Japanese television. Captain Aleksandr Nikitin's crime was to publish information on nuclear waste.**




Gert Postel, who was appearing at a Leipzig court yesterday charged with fraud

# Glib liar dupes Germany's medical elite

'Well-respected psychiatrist' faces year in jail, writes Roger Boyes

A POSTMAN dubbed the biggest German liar since Baron Münchhausen was sent for trial in Leipzig yesterday accused of posing as a senior doctor for more than six months.

Gert Postel's other jobs — acquired by the diligent forging of documents and bluff — included judge, prosecuting lawyer and theologian, but it was impersonation of a top psychiatrist that has put him in the dock.

Postel, 40, was an expert psychiatric witness at 30 trials. Saxony's judicial system says his evidence did not lead to any miscarriage of justice, but, inevitably, there will be appeals. That is only a small measure of the embarrassment felt by institutions that were comprehensively duped. The fault, say many, lies in a society that puts too much emphasis on documentation and an authoritative manner.

Postel's career began in 1979. A school dropout, he faked a leaving certificate and became a legal clerk. Eventually the forgery was discovered and he lost the job, but he became the lover of two women doctors and picked up enough knowledge to bluff his way as a clinical psychologist.

"If you grasp dialectics and the jargon of psychiatry you can put any old nonsense into a convincing form," he said later. At a rehabilitation centre, he was so plausible that he was allowed to stand in for the supervising doctor. He was rumbled by a patient, a judge who knew him from his brief legal career. But while on bail he was, under a pseudonym, made responsible for all referrals to psychiatric clinics and supervision of social psychiatric services in the city of Flensburg.

He reduced the art of psychiatric referral to two formulae. If the patient was shy, sleepy or reluctant to speak, he was having a "lightly autistic psychosis". More lively ones were suffering from "active psychosis of a schizophrenic nature".

Found out after he lost a wallet containing two identical photographs in different names, Postel received a year's suspended sentence. But the lure of medicine was too strong and in 1996 he became chief neurologist and psychiatrist at a big regional hospital near Colditz.

He built up such a reputation that he was tipped for a chair in neurology. But the game was up. Shielded by former lovers, he evaded the police until late last year. He has admitted deception and faces a year in jail.

# Critics silenced as Lafontaine budget makes priority of good housekeeping

**Bonn:** Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, yesterday capped a month of skimping and saving by unveiling a budget that surprised political observers and the markets with its commitment to good housekeeping rather than ambitious tax-and-spend job creation schemes (Roger Boyes writes).

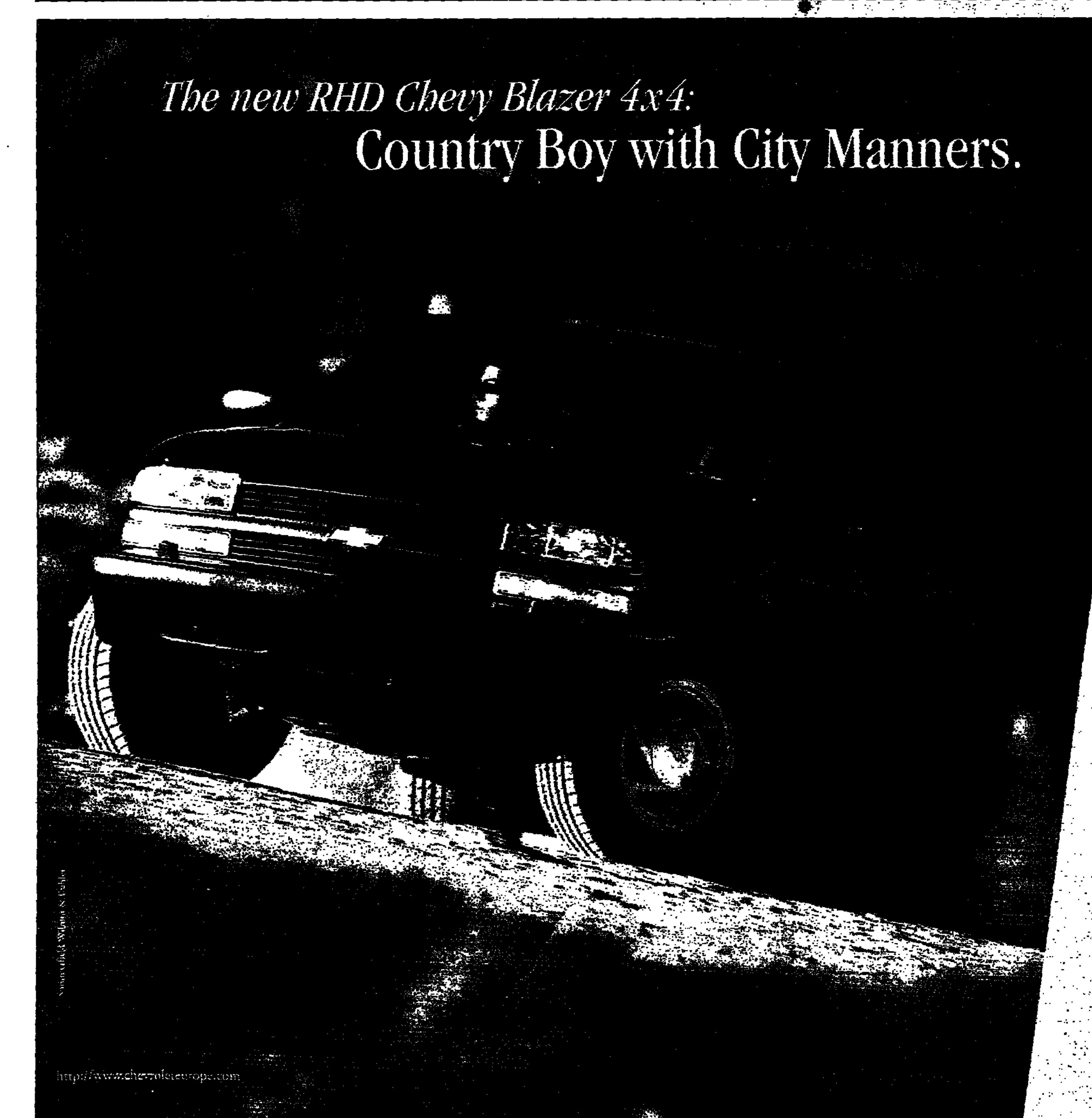
"The budget demonstrates that Oskar is capable of learning new tricks," said a senior European diplomat, pointing out that Herr Lafontaine had already retreated from several other of his controversial post-election promises. He no longer talks of "target exchange rate zones" in the global economy, European tax harmonisation is now called tax co-ordination and his pledge to stimulate growth by boosting private consumption barely figures in the latest budgetary calculations. Indeed the new Government's first budget closely resembles the earlier calculations of the outgoing Christian Democratic Government.

There are big increases for the health service, recognising that it will now take over responsibility for looking after old people, and in the employment department, which needs to finance promised early retirement pensions. The Defence Ministry has been forced to trim 7.5 per cent from its budget — regarded as difficult but not endangering key co-operation projects with Britain or Germany's commitment to the Eurofighter project. The Finance Ministry, meanwhile, is having to borrow new money to make the books balance.

If the budget — approved by the Cabinet yesterday — stays on course, Germany will keep well within the monetary union target of borrowing no more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Herr Lafontaine's big hope is for significant privatisation over the next three years — German Post, the German Post Bank, Deutsche Telekom and three airports are to be privatised.

The calculations of Herr Lafontaine may still go awry. A Supreme Court decision on Tuesday ruled that all families with children should be given tax breaks similar to those presently given to single mothers. Giving single mothers privileged tax status was in conflict with the Constitution, ruled the court, since all mothers should be treated equally. The Bill for these new tax breaks will not arrive until the next budget year but will be in the region of £8 billion.

It may be too early to judge Herr Lafontaine on the basis of one budget, but it seems that he is more concerned with balancing the books and fiscal discipline than with the tax-and-spend policies usually associated with a man branded as a dyed-in-the-wool socialist.


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# Monitors deny Racak evidence was fabricated

**Tom Walker** reports from Pristina on reaction to French reports that the massacre was staged by the Albanian side

INTERNATIONAL monitors from the beleaguered Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission in Kosovo yesterday rejected as propaganda reports from Belgrade — boosted by speculation in French newspapers — that the Racak massacre of ethnic Albanians was a set-up.

*Le Figaro* and *Le Monde* have suggested that between Friday night and Saturday morning, when the international furore over Racak began, the Kosovo Liberation Army could have fabricated evidence, and even mutilated some of the bodies themselves.

The reports point out that OSCE monitors were invited to observe the operation, and that they were in Racak on Friday evening, after the police had pulled back from the village, and appeared to report nothing untoward. They also state that a television team from Associated Press filmed part of the police operation, and little of the evidence from its footage chimed with Albanian accounts of the killings.

At the same time the Serbian state media is giving prominent coverage to the initial reports of Dr Sasa Dobricanin, the Pristina state pathologist, who has said that none of the 40 bodies retrieved from Racak on Monday "bears any sign of execution. The bodies were not massacred."

The backlash is helping Belgrade to substantiate its case against intervention and to justify its expulsion of William Walker, the OSCE Ambassador, who technically has to leave Yugoslavia as *persona non grata* by tonight.

But in Pristina OSCE officials yesterday were standing their ground, and an expert gave the first detailed briefing containing compelling evidence that Racak was indeed a massacre in which many victims were killed — either shot or bludgeoned — at close range. Speaking on condition of strict anonymity, the source did admit, however, that some bodies may have been moved, and that one may have been decapitated and another had an additional gunshot wound inflicted after death.

The OSCE examination, carried out on Saturday afternoon, found that two bodies had bullet wounds to the head bearing powder marks confirming a close-range execution-style killing. Bloodstains indicated they had not been moved. One elderly man had been decapitated, although whether this occurred before or after his death was impossible to judge.

A group of 15 victims was inspected in a ditch at the top of the hill overlooking Racak. "Some of them had been moved there. I can't say why," said the expert. Most had bullet wounds to the head, all inflicted while they were alive, except for one man, who had been shot in the left cheek "after death, but it can't be proven how long".

"I think we can say this was a very nasty massacre," said the source, who also dismissed Serb claims that the bodies had been stripped of KLA uniforms. "There was complete agreement between the holes in the clothes and the bodies."

*Le Figaro* had hypothesised that at Racak the KLA attempted to transform a military defeat into a political victory.

☐ **London:** The Foreign Office announced yesterday that the Contact Group meeting on Kosovo would now be held in London, instead of Brussels, and would map out a new strategy (Michael Binyon writes). This could be followed by a meeting of Western foreign ministers next week. The Nato Council will meet again today, and readiness for action has been reduced from 96 to 48 hours.

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NATO bases


YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REUTERS
Two sisters, aged 3 and 6, wait to be evacuated by Western aid agencies after their home in the village of Petrovo was shelled by Serb forces


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# Jumbled prosecution of President 'based on myth, not reality'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MAKING an impassioned counter-attack, President Clinton's lawyers claimed yesterday that the prosecution had unfairly jumbled evidence from the year-long saga, creating an "enormously damaging" image "based on myth, not reality". Gregory Craig, White House special counsel, opened the second day of the President's defence before the Senate with a fierce attack on the charge that the President committed perjury about his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

He told senators that he had come "to tell you how really bad this article is, legally, structurally and constitutionally". And he asked them to take the time to read Mr Clinton's grand jury evidence and "see the President is truthful".

Mr Craig, whose energetic, crisp delivery has made him a star even within Mr Clinton's 11-strong, all-star legal team, accused the prosecution of deliberately capitalising on the confusion of a public befuddled and half-drowned by the thousands of pages of evidence. In particular, the prosecution had deliberately blurred the stark difference between the President's evidence in the Paula Jones sexual harassment civil case last January, and his evidence to the Grand Jury in August.

In the Jones evidence, the President was "evasive and misleading", Mr Craig said. "Indeed, as I have already said, he was maddening", he added. "But in the Grand Jury, for four long hours, he was forthright and he told the whole truth." The President "did not deny a relationship with Ms Lewinsky; he acknowledged one. He did not deny that he had been alone with her; he admitted that he was, on many occasions, alone with her.

"This confusion has given rise to a wholly inaccurate conventional wisdom," Mr Craig said. "It has done enormous damage to the President."

Mr Craig touched on the point that is crucial for the President's case, but politically dangerous: whether Ms Lewinsky's account can be trusted. The White House has gone to great lengths to avoid calling her unreliable, deluded or a liar. But it would be disastrous if the President could be removed from office simply on a "he said, she said" dispute, without corroborating evidence, White House lawyers said.

Before the defence had resumed, senators held separate party meetings and Republicans emerged sounding more sure that they will seek to call at least some witnesses to resolve conflicts in evidence.

# Congress gasps at Clinton's big spending plans

**President tackles health reforms with $4,400bn budget, writes Ian Brodie**

PRESIDENT Clinton has ensured that bitter fights lie ahead by challenging Republicans to forgo tax cuts in favour of bolstering government pensions and healthcare security for a greying America.

His ambitious State of the Union address, with an agenda that was his defiant answer to charges of impeachment, contained proposals that would expand the reach of government on a scale not seen since Lyndon Johnson's Great Society in the 1960s.

They were only proposals, and Republicans controlling Congress have the power to knock them back. However, they must come up with answers of their own or run the risk of suffering a further decline in voters' affections.

Republicans were rattled yesterday that Mr Clinton had found ways to spend the entire budget surplus projected for the next 15 years, an astounding $4,400 billion (£2,700 billion).

"Not a penny for tax cuts?" asked an exasperated Dick Armey, leader of the House Republicans. Other Republicans took the same line, that they had not worked towards a budget surplus simply to spend it all on new programmes. Instead, they will try to enact a rapid 10 per cent cut in income tax, claiming that families already pay 40 cents on every dollar they earn in taxes, the highest percentage ever.

Will Mr Clinton veto a tax cut? It could cause unease among his fellow Democrats who, unlike him, will be running for re-election in just under two years.

A more likely outcome is a compromise — help for pensions but also tax cuts — that will be reached only after prolonged and difficult budget negotiations later this year.

Republicans bridled at Mr Clinton's plans for the Government to get involved in stock market investments and in managing new retirement accounts for all Americans.

"People today want and expect to have control over their own lives and money," said Jennifer Dunn, a Congresswoman who gave the official Republican response to Mr Clinton's speech.

Mr Clinton proposed the most far-reaching reform yet advocated for Social Security, the government pension scheme that is facing insolvency in 2032. He laid out a plan to transfer nearly two-thirds of the projected surplus to Social Security and to allow the system, which must now buy rock-solid Treasury bonds, to invest nearly a quarter of the new funds on Wall Street through an independent board.

Republicans reacted with horror, saying that the idea could have the effect of "nationalising" the Fortune 500 companies and of creating the potential for huge conflicts of interest between the Government and the private sector.

Another potential problem, only whispered, was: what if the stock market crashes?

Under Mr Clinton's plan, another 11 per cent of the budget surplus, about $500 billion, would be used to match investments by individual workers in retirement accounts, a pension system already offered by many employers but not the Government. Again, there were serious Republican misgivings about giving Washington more control over retirement income.

Another Clinton proposal would use 15 per cent of the surplus to ensure solvency for Medicare, the health service for "senior citizens". Its prospects will depend on whatever compromise Republicans can strike with Mr Clinton over tax cuts and Social Security.

In the wake of Mr Clinton's speech, Washington was left to wonder at his ability to "compartmentalise". Despite his impeachment trial, and the stain it will leave on his legacy whatever the outcome, the President delivered his televised address as though there was nothing else bothering him.

Yesterday he took his message on the road to Buffalo and Pennsylvania for campaign-style events to promote his agenda as if it were a surefire winner.

Bronwen Maddox, page 22

SUSAN WALSH / AP



President Clinton and his wife Hillary boarding a plane at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, yesterday to start campaigning for his agenda

# Beijing sends Internet 'subversive' to jail



Lin Hai: supplied e-mail addresses

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA yesterday jailed a software engineer, known by the codename "Black Eyes", for two years for subversion on the Internet. He is accused of sending thousands of e-mail addresses to a dissident publication in America.

The case was the first known instance of a Chinese court challenging Internet use as a threat to state security, observers said.

While some overseas human rights officials felt that the sentence was less harsh than was expected, it was condemned by the wife of Lin Hai, the 30-year-old engineer. "It is heavier than I had hoped," said Xu Hong, who was allowed to attend the hearing at a court in Shanghai. "When he is innocent, even one year is too long."

Lin was arrested last March and accused of trying to undermine state power by using the Internet to send about 30,000 e-mail addresses to VIP Reference, a dissident publication. Lin told the court that he had supplied them under a business arrangement and that he regularly bought or exchanged information to build up a database for an online job-search business.

Diplomats here said the case had broad implications for state control over the Internet. Beijing sees the Internet as opening up opportunities, but it also keeps careful watch on what it believes could pose a threat to its power. China routinely blocks sites of major news groups and scours the Internet for subversive material.


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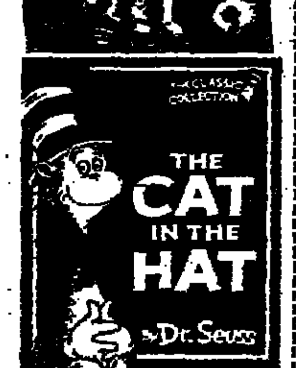
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CHANGING TIMES

# Israeli poll hit by new break-in

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

FOR THE second time in a week, burglars have broken into the headquarters of an American polling firm working for the Israeli opposition Labour Party and taken "sensitive" material. To the embarrassment of Washington police and the FBI, again there are no immediate suspects for the break-in at Capitol Hill.

The two episodes have injected a capricious element into the tense run-up to the Israeli general election in May. Not least of the issues raised is why Israeli political parties are turning to Americans for help in winning votes.

The premises of Greenberg Quinlan Research on Capitol Hill were broken into on Monday evening by thieves who got in through a first-floor window and immediately disabled a new and supposedly superior burglar alarm. It had been installed after the first break-in the previous Monday when the burglars entered through a skylight and disconnected a security alarm.

In the first raid, the intruders made off with a laptop computer containing information on the Labour Party's bank accounts and assets, its campaign strategy and a schedule of forthcoming appearances by Ehud Barak, the leader and main rival to Biniyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and his right-wing Likud Party.

In the second raid, the haul included questionnaires, surveys and strategies giving details of how Mr Barak will mount his challenge.

The first break-in generated news and comment about an Israeli Watergate, based on the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in Washington in 1972 by burglars working for Richard Nixon's Committee to Re-elect the President — Creep. The first Watergate break-in went undetected, but the burglars were caught on returning to replace eavesdropping microphones that were not working properly.

Aides to Mr Barak, though suspicious, were reluctant to assign any blame after the first break-in. That reticence has now been discarded. "We hereby declare the demise of the coincidence theory," Alon Pinkas, an adviser, said.

In Jerusalem, Mr Netanyahu said yesterday the burglaries may have been set up to embarrass him: "We witness, suddenly, a second break-in. The first was absurd, but the second, in the same place, occurred while the FBI was watching. I hope we are not dealing with political provocations whose intent is to create false accusations."

Mr Barak, a much-decorated retired army general, said he was not worried that the stolen material could damage him. In his view, the failing Likud Government could not somehow improve its standing by reading purloined documents and files.

Nevertheless, somebody is embarked on a serious effort to harrass the Barak campaign. The homes of at least six of his staff have been broken into in the past four months, although in each case nothing was stolen.

The firm targeted in Washington is run by Stanley Greenberg, a key Democratic pollster, who specialises in strategic research, focus groups and intensive one-on-one surveys. He has advised a broad range of campaigns including those of President Clinton, Tony Blair and President Mandela.

Mr Netanyahu must tread warily in making any criticism. He has his own American political adviser, the conservative Arthur Finkelstein.

LESLIE KOSSOFF / AP



Joe Gentile, a police spokesman, briefs reporters at the offices of a US political adviser to Israel's Labour Party

# India renounces nuclear testing

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

INDIA yesterday promised Britain that it will never again test a nuclear weapon.

The pledge was made to Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office Minister, by Brajesh Mishra, the national security adviser to Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Indian Prime Minister. Mr Mishra, charged with negotiating nuclear issues in the wake of India's testing of nuclear devices last summer, said that Delhi would not explode any new device before signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), automatically barring it from further tests.

Mr Mishra was also due to see George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and the Prime Minister's foreign affairs adviser at Downing Street.

Britain refused to cut off aid to India after the tests, and led a diplomatic push to persuade it to sign the CTBT.

India will unveil all its missiles at its annual Republic Day parade next week, according to the parade commander.



The King and Prince Hamzah, the new favourite

# King Hussein raises doubt over successor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

FRESH questions about the future of Jordan were raised yesterday when King Hussein broke with past practice and refused to confirm his young brother, Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, 51, as his automatic successor.

In his first interview since returning to a hero's welcome on Tuesday from a successful six-month cancer treatment in America, the Harrow-educated monarch, 63, refused to tell Cable News Network whether he was planning to revise the 1965 constitutional change that named Prince Hassan as the next king.

The King looked uncomfortable when pinned down on the question of the succession. "I am not prepared to say anything," he said. "So please do not commit me to anything whatsoever. I have always had to take the final decision. It is my responsibility, and I will come to it at an appropriate time."

The tone of the interview, combined with the fact that at the airport the King referred to his brother as his "deputy" and not by his title Crown Prince, increased speculation that he plans to name Prince Hamzah, 18, his eldest son by his fourth wife, Queen Noor, as his successor.

The Prince is following his father's footsteps at Sandhurst, having spent much of the past six months at the King's bedside at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota. He was singled out for mention by the King from his other children at the airport arrival ceremony because of the blood he provided for transfusions during the treatment.

Royal watchers also took note that during Tuesday's 15-mile drive through the crowded streets of Amman, Queen Noor rode next to her husband, in contrast to his 1992 homecoming from an earlier treatment, when he was accompanied by Crown Prince Hassan.

Speaking in his palace overlooking the capital, the King said that he had made Hassan the Crown Prince with the agreement of their other brother, Prince Muhammad, because there was no alternative at the time.

In 1965, the King had been subject to assassination attempts and his natural successor, his first son, Abdullah, was then aged three.

"It was I who canvassed for the alternative in our constitution that enables a brother to take over," the King said yesterday. "But that did not mean at all it was the end of the story there, and I think the Crown Prince has to work in the background to a very large extent."

# Queen in 'honour killings' campaign

Amman: Queen Noor of Jordan has backed a campaign to fight "honour killings", the formerly taboo subject of the murders of women in the Arab world for alleged sexual impropriety that claim hundreds of lives every year (Christopher Walker writes).

In Jordan alone, a country of only 4.6 million people, at least 25 to 30 women are killed annually because of alleged immorality. That represents a quarter of all murders in the country.Male relations, encouraged by lax laws that can enable them to escape with little or no penalty, take the lives of these women because of their involvement — or simply suspected involvement — in affairs.



Queen Noor: tackling a taboo in the Arab world

The Queen joined the campaign spearheaded by Rana Husseini,an Arab woman crime reporter who for the past five years has been exposing honour killings in the daily *Jordan Times*.

The Queen told CNN: "This type of violence against women is not consistent with Islam or with the Jordanian constitution." She said she had "very strong personal feelings as a Muslim, as a woman, as a wife and as a mother about this form of violence".






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# Old foes honour heroes of Zulu War

## Both sides gather tomorrow to mark their respective victories of 120 years ago, writes R.W. Johnson

40 miles
Blood River
SOUTH AFRICA
Dundee
Rorke's Drift
Ladysmith
Isandhlwana
KwaZulu/Natal
LESOTHO
Pietermaritzburg
Durban
Indian Ocean

THE 120th anniversary ceremonies tomorrow at Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift strike a plangent note both within modern South African politics and British imperial memory.

Perhaps no greater shock was dealt to Victorian England than Isandhlwana. Thanks to the aggressive urging of Sir Theophilus Shepstone, the Natal Secretary for Native Affairs, and the Cape Governor, Sir Bartle Frere, the Zulu king Cetshwayo was inveigled into a war he had tried hard to resist and the British Army under Lord Chelmsford (Sir Frederick Thesiger) was sent into Zululand to deal out exemplary reprisals.

Chelmsford unwisely divided his forces and a detachment of about 1,800 men suddenly encountered the Zulu impis on the vast plain of Isandhlwana. Despite having a considerable superiority in weapons and a redoubtable and experienced commander, Colonel Anthony Durnford, the British were simply overwhelmed. The impis lost more than 2,000 dead, but their onslaught never slackened. The Zulus hurled their own dead onto the British bayonets to drag them down and did the rest with their assegais.

By evening, only 300 of the 850 native levies survived and just 55 of the 950 British. Zulu warriors stalked through the camp, mercy killing their own wounded and disembowelling the British dead. "There are not enough tears to mourn for the dead," lamented Cetshwayo on receiving the news. But in London there was utter incredulity at this defeat of British power at the hands of "savages".


The British memorial at Rorke's Drift

British pride was saved in part by the heroic defence of Rorke's Drift, the post against which the advancing impis hurled their might a few hours later. Fighting for more than ten hours against enormous odds, the tiny band of defenders managed to hold out, inflicting hundreds of casualties, and suddenly Britain had the heroes it desired. In sheer relief at the defenders' heroism, no fewer than 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded at Rorke's Drift — which has remained the record for a single engagement, despite two subsequent world wars.

To visit Rorke's Drift today is to marvel at such ferocity being contained in so small and beautiful a space. Zulu women sell clothing and pottery to tourists.

Inevitably, the British focus in this week's celebrations lies primarily on Rorke's Drift. More than 160 of The Royal Regiment of Wales, led by Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, will attend.

But in South African and especially in Zulu eyes, Isandhlwana occupies pride of place and the week will build to a climax there. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the main Zulu political movement, the Inkatha Freedom Party, will introduce his nephew, King Zwelethini, who will unveil a memorial and there will be a re-enactment of the battle which spread the fame of Zulu arms around the world.

To South Africa's whites, Isandhlwana was the nightmare come true, the overwhelming of European arms and civilisation by the sheer numbers and ferocity of the most powerful tribe in the region. To this day, the coat of arms of Maritzburg College, one of South Africa's premier schools, consists of a Zulu assegai crossed with a Martini-Henry rifle, the main British weapon at Isandhlwana.


*A colour party of The Royal Regiment of Wales prepares at a Rorke's Drift graveside for the commemoration* **Photograph: Richard Pohle**

To generations of young whites the message was clear: fierce athleticism and tough discipline were necessary for ultimately one was being trained to face the Zulu hordes.

Today David Kramer, the Afrikaners' Bob Dylan, sings of how the plight of poor whites brings tears even to the eyes of Paul Kruger's statue for "now there's no keeping those impis at bay".

For years the celebrations of Zulu nationalism by Chief Buthelezi and King Zwelethini on occasions like Shaka Day were seen as essentially Inkatha affairs and were shunned by other Africans who still tremble at the tales of Shaka's cruelty and fear the Zulu warrior tradition.

It was, moreover, a matter of great irritation to the ANC that the primary tradition of militant anti-colonial resistance belonged to Chief Buthelezi and was thus beyond their reach. Now, however, with the growing rapprochement between Chief Buthelezi and the ANC there is a united attempt to re-situate these events within the canon of the "African Renaissance" heralded by Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President.

Indeed, it was greatly remarked upon when, on December 16, Mr Mbeki attended celebrations of the Battle of Blood River and was received with full Zulu honours by a smiling Chief Buthelezi.

Nonetheless, and much to their credit, Chief Buthelezi and King Zwelethini have always refused to crow about Isandhlwana. Chief Buthelezi — once an extra in the film *Zulu*, in which the defence of Rorke's Drift is the centrepiece — has always insisted that the battle "was fought by brave men on both sides".

This week's celebrations will catch that spirit with much mutual wreath laying, with both anthems played, much Zulu singing and dancing and the beating of the retreat by the Royal Welsh.

This time a Welsh team will play the Zulus at football, a game in which few if any casualties are expected.

THE ZULU WAR.

DEFEAT OF THE BRITISH.

*The Times* report of the Isandhlwana disaster




**www.ace.unsw.edu.au/fotw/flags/za-wars.html** — Part of the Flags of the World Website, includes questions and answers.
**www.battlefields.co.za/history.anglo-zulu war/** — Historical essays on Rorke's Drift and Isandhlwana.
**www.web-marketing.co.uk/anglozuluwar** — articles, letters and reviews on the Anglo-Zulu battles.


Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, who will attend tomorrow's ceremonies




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# Freetown refugees cheer return of Penfold

FROM SAM KILEY IN FREETOWN

PETER PENFOLD, Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, returned yesterday to Freetown to a tumultuous welcome by refugees from the fighting between rebels and West African Ecomog forces.

Mr Penfold, awarded Sierra Leone's highest honour last year for bravery during the rebel junta's 1997 takeover, waved and smiled as the crowds of hungry and destitute cheered him during his tour of their refugee camp in the capital's stadium. He was protected by bodyguards and a Royal Marines detachment.

After meeting President Kabbah, he braved the dangerous streets, where residents and Ecomog troops fear rebel snipers, to assess the capital's humanitarian needs.

Viewed as something of a maverick in London, the paramount chief, as he is known here, greeted crowds that chanted "we want peace, we want peace", then "we want food, we want food". Talking of the destruction wreaked by rebels as they fled the city, he said: "A hurricane has come to Freetown. I used to be based in the Caribbean where hurricanes would often strike. This hurricane was man-made."

He added that his visit, from Conakry in neighbouring Guinea, was to show support for the democratically elected Government and for the Ecomog forces, who yesterday continued to advance on the rebels. Mr Penfold, who was evacuated to Guinea soon after rebels infiltrated Freetown in an orgy of violence, said that he was in contact with Western aid agencies that were very anxious to obtain more information.

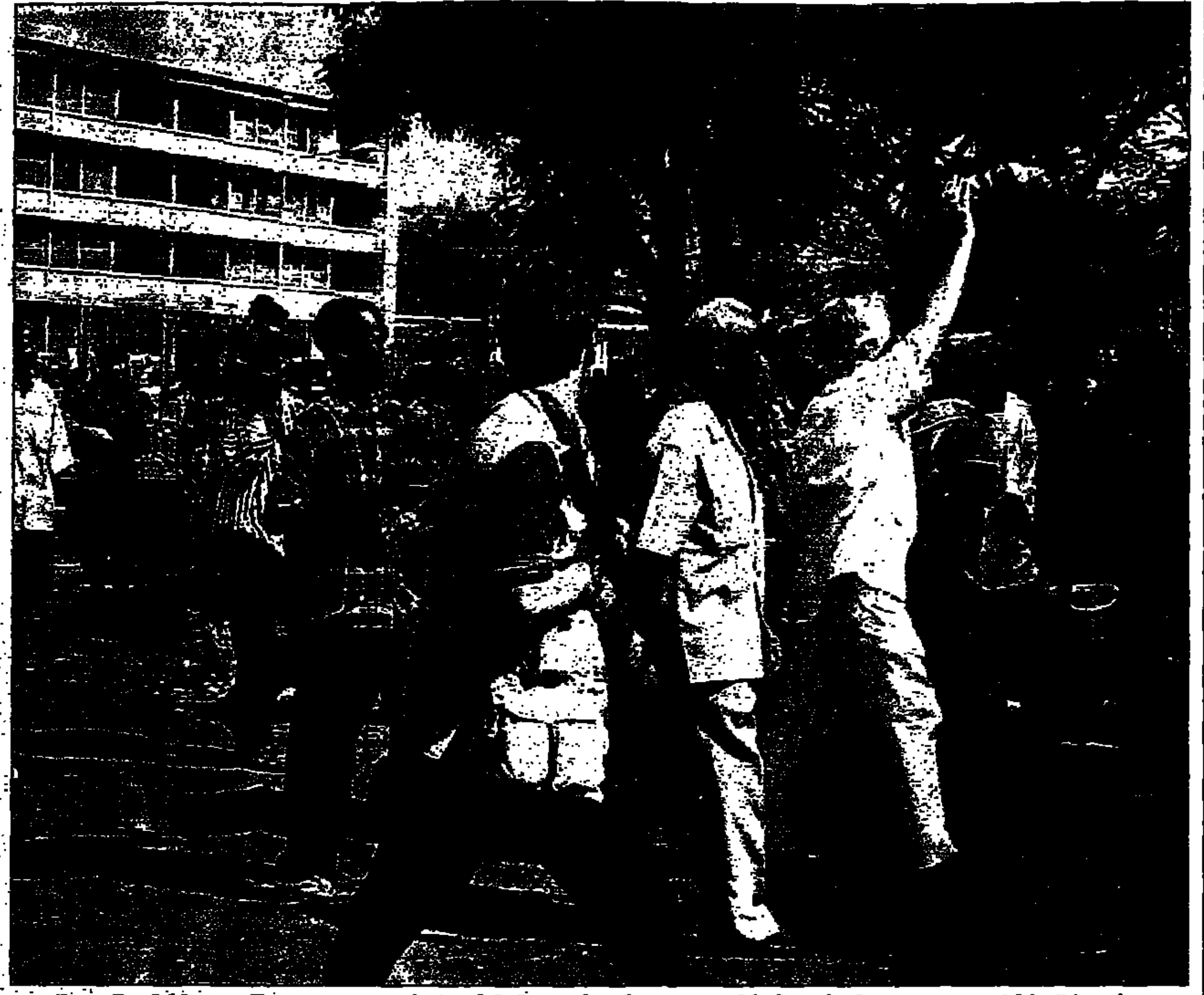
"What is important is to deliver humanitarian support that is properly delivered and sustained," he said in the stadium, home to 30,000 to 40,000 people. He then returned to *HMS Norfolk*, the frigate carrying out a reconnaissance of the situation in Sierra Leone.

Officials have ruled out any direct combat role for British troops, but have "noted" appeals from the Government and Ecomog generals for logistical help. "Decisions about what limited military aid can be given are being taken in London," said Mr Penfold, who was at the centre of last year's arms-to-Africa scandal when a London-based mercenary company claimed that it had received Foreign Office approval to arm Sierra Leone's Government, then in exile.

Sir Thomas Legg's subsequent inquiry into the Sandline affair was critical of Mr Penfold's role, but said that he had had to operate without guidance from London. However, investigations by *The Times* have disclosed that Mr Penfold and other British officials were able to use German embassy equipment to keep London informed about discussions with Sandline. The Foreign Office has denied this.

Letters, page 23

SAM KILEY





Peter Penfold tours Freetown yesterday and, below, when he appeared before the Legg "arms-to-Africa" inquiry

## Briton's cry for help

A BRITISH citizen trapped behind rebel lines during two weeks of fierce fighting in Sierra Leone issued a desperate appeal for help yesterday after being left destitute by marauding killers who fled the charred capital (writes Sam Kiley).

Olu Okulate, who was born and brought up in Chelsea, west London, yesterday sent a note to *The Times* in Freetown saying: "I have been trapped behind rebel lines for most of this year and our lives are in danger."

He came to Freetown in November last year to marry Yegbeh, a Sierra Leonean citizen, and said in his note that he had been unable to leave the capital as planned last December because his wife did not have an entry visa for Britain.

"Our money is gone and I am trapped in Freetown. I am desperate for assistance for my wife and I beg you in Jesus' name to help us," he wrote.

"I do not know what do. This has been the worst two weeks of my life," Mr Okulate added.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Yeltsin ulcer will not need surgery

**Moscow:** Doctors at the Central Clinical Hospital here have decided that President Yeltsin's bleeding ulcer can be treated without surgery (Anna Blundy writes). That will come as a relief to the sickly President who underwent a quintuple heart bypass in 1996. He was taken to hospital on Sunday less than two months after suffering pneumonia.

Sergei Mironov, his chief doctor, said that Mr Yeltsin would be in hospital for up to three weeks and would not be able to travel for three months. Independent estimates suggest that he could be in hospital for six weeks. Grigori Yavlinsky, leader of the Yabloko party and a potential presidential contender, told television that Mr Yeltsin's continuing illness was destabilising the country; he called him "a power addict".

### Restaurant fire arrests

**Paris:** Three men have been arrested on suspicion of starting the fire at a two-star restaurant that killed Jean Schillinger, the celebrated chef and owner and sent shockwaves through the French culinary world in 1995 (Ben Macintyre writes). The menallegedly set fire to the famed restaurant in Colmar, Alsace, because it was "a symbol of the bourgeoisie", according to news reports. The three are said to have confessed to starting the fire while drunk.

### Royal imposter held

**Tokyo:** A 59-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of defrauding an acquaintance of 10 million yen (£53,000) by claiming to be the illegitimate child of the late Emperor Hirohito, the Kyodo news agency reported. Akiko Ikeda allegedly convinced a woman to lend her the money in 1992, saying she wanted to donate it to a university and would pay it back after collecting a large inheritance, which she expected shortly. Ms Ikeda has denied the charges. *(AP)*

### Gershwin's sister dies

**New York:** Frances Godowsky, who tried out songs for her brothers, George and Ira Gershwin, before emerging as a respected painter, has died, aged 92. Known as Frankie Gershwin, she was the last of the Gershwin siblings and the youngest behind Ira, George and Arthur. Mrs Godowsky sang in a few Broadway shows in the 1920s and was often the first to sing Gershwin tunes, giving them a test run in George's upper Manhattan apartment. *(AP)*

### 'Prophet' faces death

**Lahore:** A Pakistani has been arrested for claiming he was a prophet sent by God to reform society, and could be charged under a blasphemy law making such offences punishable by death. Muhammad Mahmood Ahmed made the declaration at the Badshahi mosque during prayers at the Eid al-Fitr festival marking the end of Ramadan.Pakistan enforced extensive security for Eid in the wake of recent terrorist incidents, including the massacre of 17 worshippers at a mosque. *(AFP)*

### Pig might not fly

**Paw Paw, Michigan:** Airlines are refusing to sell a ticket to Pork Chop, the star performer in Debbie and Alicia Dacoba's ventriloquism act, to travel cabin class. The Dacobas fear she may not be safe in the hold. Only small dogs and cats in carry cases can fly with passengers. The decision could keep the Vietnamese potbellied pig from bringing home the bacon since it jeopardises a week-long engagement in Las Vegas. *(AP)*

# Fugitive 'Robin Hood' of townships held over 14 killings

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

POLICE in South Africa were patting themselves on the back yesterday after a rare success. Colin Chauke, one of the country's most wanted fugitives, a former guerrilla believed to be the mastermind behind a series of murderous highway robberies, is back behind bars. The main concern for the police will be to keep him there.

Chauke strolled to freedom, possibly with inside help, through the main gates of Pretoria Central Prison with five other men in December 1997. He was being held in connection with 13 armed robberies that resulted in the murders of 14 security guards and is suspected of being involved in other robberies, carried out with military precision by gangs of up to 50 men armed with automatic weapons, since his escape.

Chauke, a former member of the African National Congress's former armed wing, Umkonto we Sizwe, was arrested in Nelspruit in Mpumalanga province. George Fivaz, the Police Commissioner, said yesterday that Chauke was arrested at a town house complex, apparently his latest hideout, with two other men and a woman. He confirmed that the arrest came after a tip-off and that four people might share a reward of £35,000.

In black townships around Johannesburg, Chauke has become something of a Robin Hood figure, handing out cash to the poor while leading a flamboyant life.

He was spotted at a birthday party for Peter Mokhaba, the former ANC youth wing leader and now a deputy minister, but slipped away before police arrived. He is being held in a small cell and being watched day and night.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

RAP VISIONARY

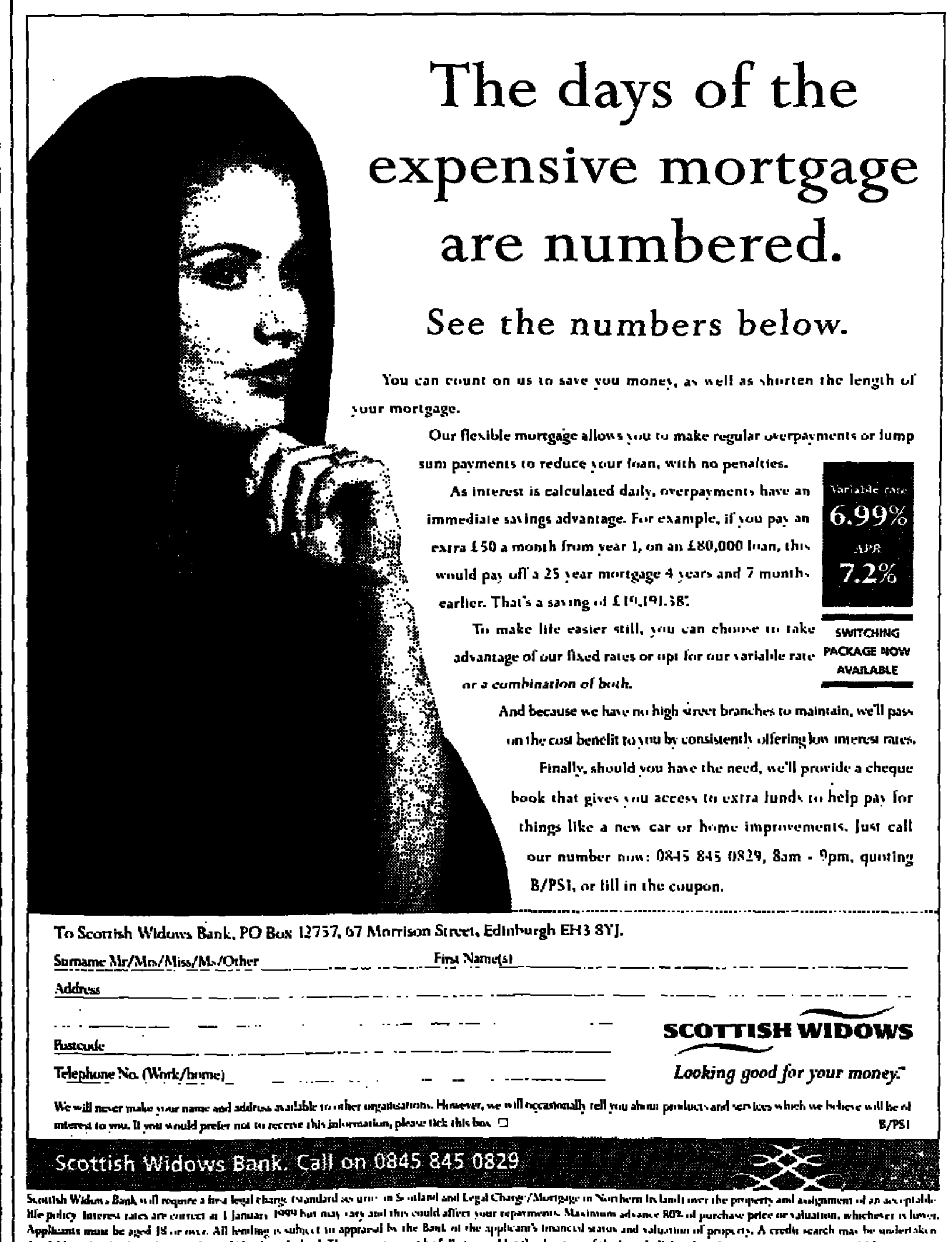
Warren Beatty is still driven by a liberal idealism. As a senator turned rap artist in his new movie Bulworth, he plays for laughs to make serious points on puritanism and politics. **Interview, Culture, this Sunday**

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# Pregnancy without an itch



**Dr Thomas Stuttaford** reports on skin irritation during pregnancy; artificial sun tans and skin disease; the difference between perforated and bleeding ulcers; the medicinal value of plant extracts; and Hitler's singular problem

Research into excessive skin irritation, one of the miseries of pregnancy, which is now thought more dangerous to the baby than hitherto believed, is to be undertaken at St Thomas' Hospital in London. It will be funded by Tommy's Campaign.

In a good Victorian novel *the affluent woman before* childbirth became happier and happier as the day of her *confinement* grew closer. Now only the very rich have much in the way of domestic help, and women in the later stages of pregnancy are all too often tired and weary. They have indigestion, feel heavy and breathless, and long for deliverance. Life is difficult enough during the last few weeks of *pregnancy, but it can become* wretched for 2 per cent of women who are driven to distrac*tion by an overwhelming* desire to scratch.

Some skin irritation, bearable but still a nuisance, affects as many as one in five women, although otherwise the pregnancy is normal in every other way. Neither the severe form of irritation, affecting one in 50, or the more common, lesser variety shows any evidence of a rash. The irritation is classically worse at night and, for the badly affected, sleep is all but impossible. Next day, inadequately rested, the woman finds that the inevitable household tasks are an unbearable burden and often becomes cross and tearful.

It is thought that the group who have *this excessive* irritation are suffering from obstetric cholestasis. The condition *may also be characterised by* more serious problems such as premature labour, and troubles with the new-born baby that may be adversely affected by delivery even to the point of foetal death. The condition is becoming increasingly recognised, and the more this is so, the more cases are diagnosed.

Obstetric cholestasis is not well understood, although skin irritation is frequently *found in cases of liver disease.* A recent analysis of blood taken from women who had had *an unexplained* stillbirth showed that in more than 45 per cent there was evidence of abnormal liver function and raised bile acids. In Britain every year there are 2,000 unexplained stillbirths, which means that 100 babies every year are perhaps lost from this cause.

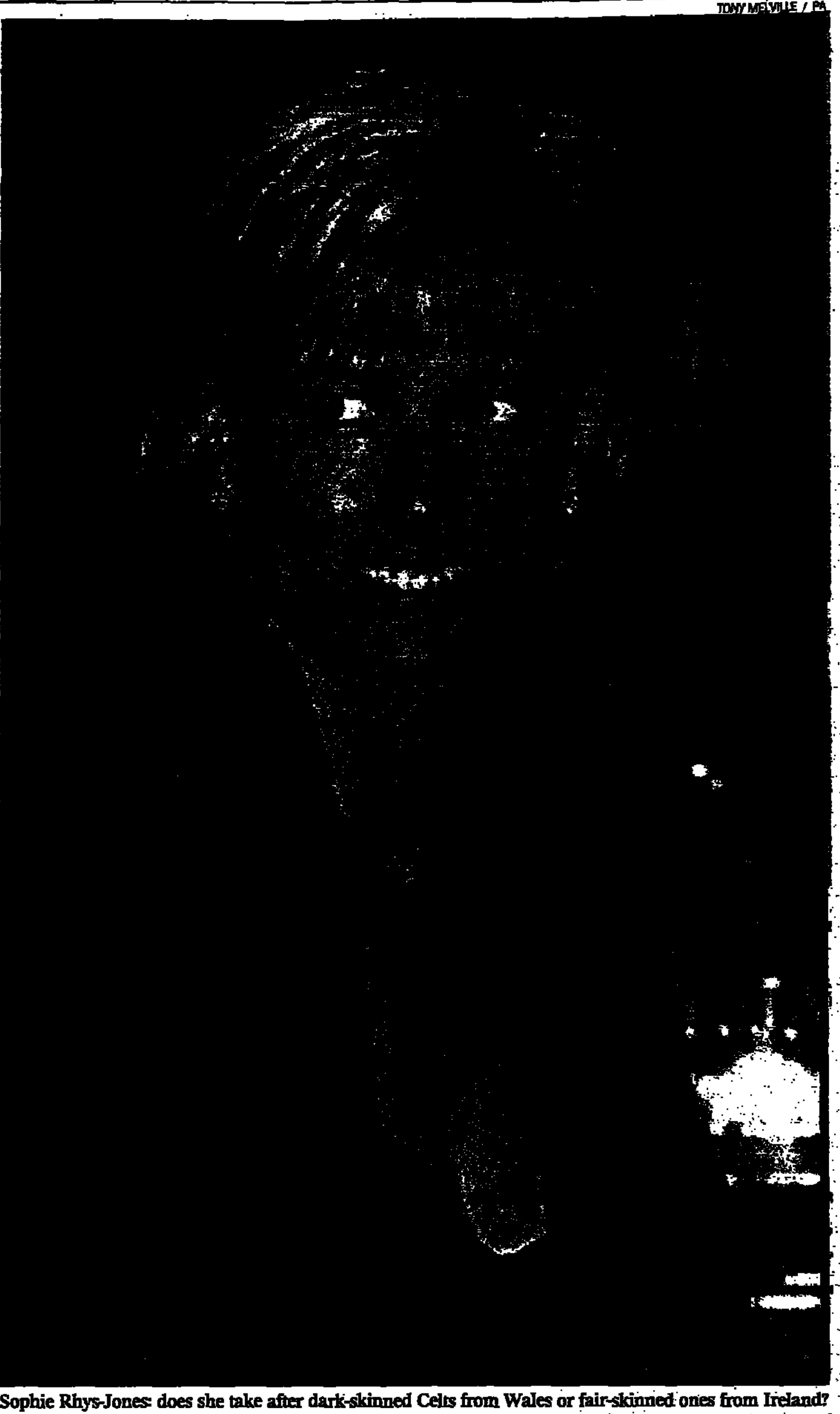
There is a familial pattern to the development of obstetric cholestasis, possibly in some families women are particularly susceptible to the effects of oestrogens which rise in pregnancy. Likewise some women may suffer from cholestatic-type symptoms, including skin irritation when taking the Pill, or even at the time of menstruation. *HRT may also induce* severe irritation in those people who have had obstetric *cholestasis in their youth.* Although there is greater awareness of the condition than there was, it is still poorly understood.

Tommy's Campaign, a national pregnancy research charity, has become one of the most important sources of research and information in Britain on three subjects: miscar*riages, premature births and* stillbirths. Obstetric cholestasis therefore fits very well into its programme and its researchers will be able to make good use of existing expertise.

Tommy's Campaign, with its own Professor of Foetal Health, operates from St Thomas', and in the eight years it has existed has funded 40 research projects nationwide.

● *Tommy's Campaign, 1 Kennington Road, London, SE1 7RR (0171-620 0188).*

TONY MELVILLE / PA



Sophie Rhys-Jones: does she take after dark-skinned Celts from Wales or fair-skinned ones from Ireland?

## Edward's golden girl should be careful of tanning

SOPHIE RHYS-JONES is a Celt. Her *father's family*, originally from Wales, has been in London for generations, but her mother's, until recently, lived in Ireland. *When Miss* Rhys-Jones undresses before sliding into her curtained sun canopy at the Hammersmith Tanning Shop, she should *pause and consider* whether her skin type takes more after the dark-skinned Celts from Wales or the fair-skinned (Type 1 or 2) *Celts from* Ireland. The effect on the health of her skin of the artificial ultraviolet radiation may depend on this.

Everybody understands why Miss Rhys-Jones wants to remain tanned throughout the winter. British Caucasians, brought up to admire a healthy brown complexion, don't feel at their best when their pallid skins look as though they have been lurking indoors all winter. Miss Rhys-Jones is in public relations, so her appearance matters. She will now be on view not only to her clients, but to the world as well.

It is also understandable *that the short*-term gains of a tan now seem so desirable that the long-term effects of it on the skin may be *ignored. It is assumed* that this is a marriage which is going to last, and that we have a monarchy that will survive, so Sophie Rhys-Jones will therefore still be being stared at in 50 years time. What effect will the rays absorbed in the sun canopy have on her skin when she opens the new rocket station at Heathrow in 2049?

Professor Ronald Marks of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Wales has written a book, *Sun and the Skin*, published by Martin Dunitz. It is an excellent study that wouldn't make very en*couraging bedtime reading* for Miss Rhys-Jones. He describes the habit as "at best wasteful and at worst hazardous", but says that those who insist on using tanning centres should follow a few golden rules if they wish to be baked golden brown — always wear goggles, always match the exposure to your skin's reaction (ie, are you a pale-skinned Celt with fair or light auburn hair? If you are, be particularly careful); don't wear any cosmetics or scent before a session; and don't have more than 20 to 30 sessions in any one year. You should, of course, go *to a reputable tanning centre* where the apparatus is likely to work efficiently. Naturally, you shouldn't have a pre-existing skin disease that might be exacerbated.

The danger of excessive tanning, even in the centres, is that it increases the chances of developing many pre-malignant conditions and all three common types of skin cancer: rodent ulcers (basal cell carcinoma), epitheliomas and the malignant moles — melanoma. An invariable effect is that it increases the speed at which the skin ages, multiplies wrinkles and creases, including the crows' feet around the eyes and mouth and the criss-cross lines on the back of the neck. By reducing *elasticity, it causes the* facial contours to sag.

## President Yeltsin and that troublesome ulcer

BORIS YELTSIN'S ulcer has had an unexpected beneficial effect. It has drawn attention to the difference between a perforated ulcer and a bleeding ulcer. The two terms were used by commentators on the first day of his illness. I was alarmed when I awoke to hear an early morning news programme in which there was talk of complications of the President's perforated ulcer.

Had I written in *The Times* about the wrong condition? All was well. President Yeltsin was indeed suffering from a bleeding ulcer: tricky, even dangerous, particu*larly if he had been taking aspirin as an* anticoagulant or if he had allowed any other anticoagulant therapy for his heart condition to get out of hand. However, if Mr Yeltsin, with his precarious health, had a perforated ulcer, it is more likely that the obituary writers would have been called in from home.

Acute perforation requires immediate surgery: delay lessens the chance of a good recovery. With a very decrepit patient, or if a non-surgical doctor was caught out while trekking through the *jungle, it might be worthwhile trying to* install some form of continuous suction so that the gastro-intestinal contents are *extracted rather than* being *allowed* to drip into the peritoneum to cause fatal peritonitis. If this procedure is to have any chance of success, it has to be accompanied by large doses of antibiotics and intravenous fluids.

Mr Yeltsin has not been taken into the operating theatre, so it seems that his ulcer must have stopped bleeding. If bleeding continues, or if it recurs, which is always a possibility, there are two options that might be performed. The President could have had an endoscopic examination, accompanied by either electrocautery, laser therapy or local injections, to sclerose the bleeding blood vessels. *More often, simple surgery is resort*ed to and the bleeding staunched.

## Magical qualities of a lily can keep you in the pink

THE study by scientists of the medicinal qualities of plant extracts has reached new highs. The lily family, for instance, bewitches the eye and fills a room with a seductive scent — paradoxical attributes for the flowers that are classically the symbol of chastity.

However, the lily family is not all it appears. The truth is that they contain more than 20 powerful alkaloids, physio*logically active* organic compounds found in plants.

Many of these alkaloids *have therapeutic* value, although they are dangerous if taken to excess. Others would make chastity a necessity, but this is much more likely to be a problem for sheep than humans.

If an unwary ewe eats the seeds of wild lilies, a strange teratogenic effect occurs and the luckless ewe's lambs can be born with one central eye — a pastoral Cyclops.

Dr Arthur Hollman, an award-winning *medical* historian and formerly a consultant cardiologist at University College Hospital, has for years studied the effects of plants in medicine in general, and in cardiology in particular.

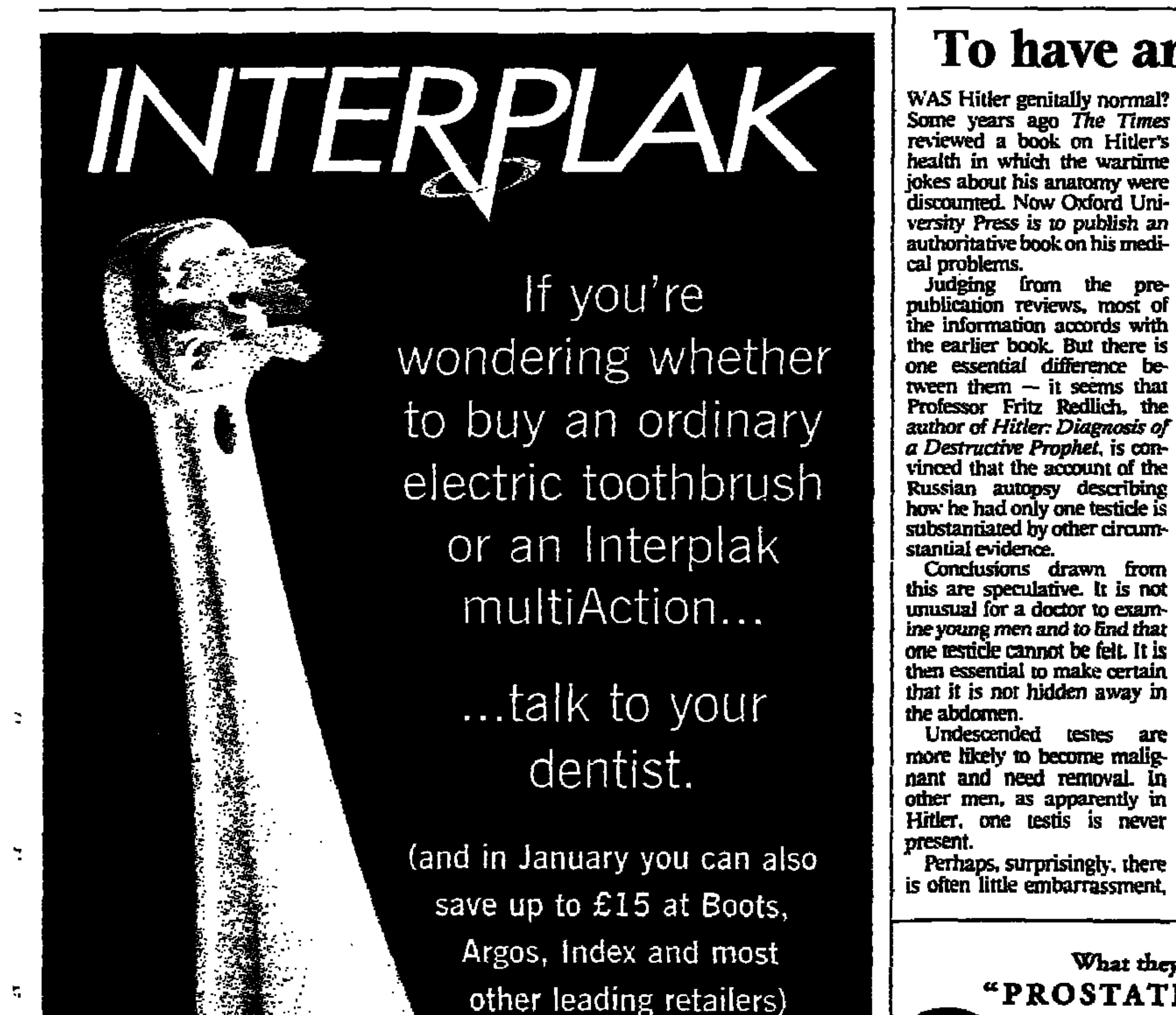
In one of his books, *Plants in Cardiology*, there is an account of the veratrum alkaloids, derived from the veratrum species *(Liliaceae)*.

For more than 100 years, veratrum was effectively used *to treat high blood pressure* but its side-effects, if not as dramatic as in the ewe, caused nausea and vomiting.

Even when I started in medicine it was still used with success to treat eclampsia, the dangerously high blood pressure of pregnancy.

In the 19th century, before Prozac, now celebrating its tenth birthday, the atypical neuroleptics and a host of tranquillisers, veratrum was used to treat various psychiatric conditions.

The *alkaloids* from the liliaceous family have a major effect on the heart and circula*tion, and thereby reduce blood* pressure.



## To have and have not

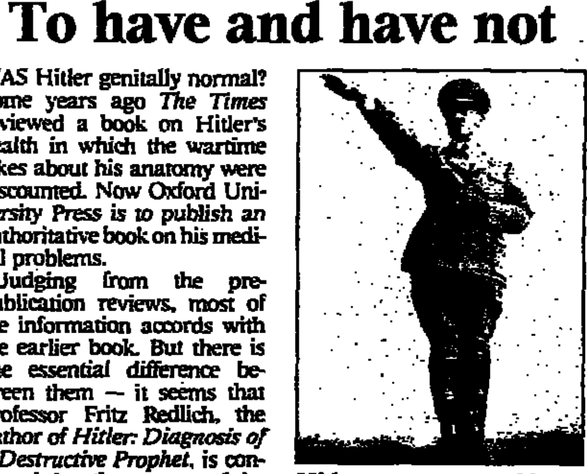
WAS Hitler genitally normal? Some years ago *The Times* reviewed a book on Hitler's health in which the wartime jokes about his anatomy were discounted. Now Oxford Uni*versity Press is to publish an* authoritative book on his medical problems.

Judging from the prepublication reviews, most of the information accords with the earlier book. But there is one essential difference between them — it seems that Professor Fritz Redlich, the *author of Hitler: Diagnosis of a Destructive Prophet*, is convinced that the account of the Russian autopsy describing how he had only one testicle is substantiated by other circumstantial evidence.

Conclusions drawn from this are speculative. It is not unusual for a doctor to exam*ine young men and to find that* one testicle cannot be felt. It is then essential to make certain that it is not hidden away in the abdomen.

Undescended testes are more likely to become malignant and need removal. In other men, as apparently in Hitler, one testis is never present.

Perhaps, surprisingly, there is often little embarrassment, but in the sensitive it could contribute to impotence. It is not likely to be a cause of infertility or lack of masculinity as the one remaining testis copes admirably.

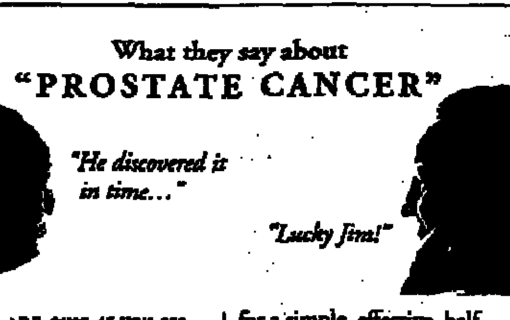


Hitler's testes: new evidence

*Hitler's* other genital problem was hypospadias, in which the meatus, the aperture of the urethra, opens on the underside rather than at the end of the penis.

Not uncommonly seen in genitourinary clinics, it is not usually inconvenient. But if it causes embarrassment or problems when urinating, urologists can soon resite the opening. Sex is not affected.


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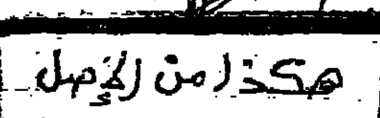



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# Facing the truth about Jackie

The film biography of Jacqueline du Pré has provoked a vitriolic response. But confronting the painful truths of her life is the only way we can fully understand her genius, says **Sandra Parsons**

In a letter to *The Times* yesterday, six of classical music's great and good registered their dismay at a new film about the cellist Jacqueline du Pré.

*Hilary and Jackie*, which was premiered in London last night, is powerful, emotive and may well win Emily Watson an Oscar for her magnificent portrayal of Jackie. It is about the extraordinary relationship between Jacqueline and her older sister Hilary, and features the revelation, already made by Hilary in a book co-written with their brother Piers, that she allowed Jacqueline to have an affair with Kiffer, her husband of ten years, and move in with them at their home in the tranquil Hampshire countryside.

The reaction this revelation unleashed in the music world has been vitriolic. When the book was serialised in *The Times*, distinguished critics puffed themselves up to a crescendo of arrogance and pomposity as they searched for damning adjectives. Hilary and Piers were dismissed as bumpkins, amateur musicians who were "bitter and twisted", their perceived determination to shred their sister's reputation made even more tawdry by the fact that she was dead.

The release of *Hilary and Jackie* has created a similar, Pavlovian reaction. Julian Lloyd Webber, one of the signatories to *The Times* letter, has declared the film "appalling" (although he concedes the acting is good). Together with Yehudi Menuhin, Itzhak Perlman, William Pleeth, Mstislav Rostropovich and Pinchas Zukerman, he says the film portrays du Pré as selfish, spoilt and manipulative. "This is not the Jacqueline du Pré that we, as her friends and colleagues, knew."

And there's the rub. Learning the truth about someone is always difficult; living with it is even harder. And being truthful about how that makes us feel about ourselves is perhaps the hardest of all.

Jacqueline du Pré died in 1987, aged 42, ravaged by multiple sclerosis. She was a genius who played the cello with such emotion and brilliance that even those of us who do not occupy the upper stratosphere of music critics and musicians feel the hairs on our arms standing on end as we listen. Dying early, and of a cruel disease, served only to increase her status as an icon. It is the perceived tarnishing of that image which is now exercising her "friends and colleagues" so greatly. For them it is easier to condemn the messenger as a scandalous muckraker than to contemplate the idea of an imperfect icon.

As Dr Stuttaford points out elsewhere on this page, multiple sclerosis causes brain damage which can have an appalling psychological effect on sufferers, often felt even before the disease is diagnosed and made all the more confusing by its tendency to come and go. This was undoubtedly the case with Jackie, and it goes a significant way to explaining the peculiarities of her behaviour. The fact that she was a genius explains the rest.

In common with many other multiple sclerosis sufferers, Jackie in her declining years was rude, obnoxious and apparently unfeeling about her family. She was also sexually uninhibited, which may partly account for her desire to sleep with Kiffer. What makes the behaviour of Hilary so remarkable is that Jackie's 16-month affair with Kiffer happened before she had been diagnosed with MS, and in any event before the psychological effects of the disease were widely known. From Hilary's point of view, her sister was losing her mind and needed Kiffer. Hilary, in an extraordinary act of love and compassion, allowed her to have him.

> 'Like the book, the film is uncynical and full of love'

Does this knowledge diminish in any way our appreciation of Jacqueline du Pré's music? Does it make her any less of a genius? Of course not. Rather, it enhances our understanding, and our sympathy. Or at least, it should.

I was closely involved in *The Times* serialisation of the book, and spent many hours with Hilary and Piers. They were almost childlike in their candour. Their love for Jackie was transparent, as indeed it is in the book, *A Genius in the Family* — a title denounced by the music critic Hugh Canning as "sarcastic and envious", which I think tells us rather more about him than it does about them.

While friends and colleagues of Jackie knew her through her music, Hilary and Piers's bond with her is altogether more fundamental. As Hilary told me then: "I don't think anyone can imagine what it is like to have a Jackie living in the family, and I say that with great love. But no one who has not experienced that can possibly imagine what it takes. It's not only difficult for the family, it's extremely difficult for the possessor of that genius.

"She didn't know she was understanding adult emotions when she was a very little girl, but she was, because you could see her doing it with her cello. She could make people cry, she could make people laugh. She played the Elgar with such poignancy as a young girl, and that must be incredibly hard to bear.

"Nobody could be with Jackie for long without being reduced by her. People could remain friends with her as long as they saw her occasionally, then they could take it, but people couldn't live with her week in, week out, because she unwittingly destroyed them."


ERIC AUERBACH
The fierce genius of du Pré — even at an early age she could reduce an adult audience to tears with her cello playing

PETER NICHOLLS
Hilary du Pré with the husband she "gave" to Jackie in an extraordinary act of love

The portrait Hilary paints of her sister is multi-layered, uncynical and full of love. To his credit, Anand Tucker's film achieves the same result. It unfolds in three stages. The first concentrates on Hilary and Jackie's childhood, while the second and third parts tell the story of their adult lives first through Hilary's eyes, then through Jackie's. It is a stunningly successful device in which the love scenes between Kiffer and Jacqueline, derided in bilious fashion by music critics here, are handled tenderly.

The film is already on release in America, and the film critics of *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*, unsullied by the small-minded pettiness across the pond, gave it rave reviews. Kenneth Turan, in the *LA Times*, says: "The powerful yet delicate ties of sisterhood it illuminates are so intricate and mysterious, and so superbly acted, that this exploration is difficult to resist."

"One of the most insightful and wrenching portraits of the joys and tribulations of being a classical musician ever filmed," writes Stephen Holden in the *NY Times*. "You feel the intensity of their [Hilary and Jackie's] bond every second they're together."

Hilary du Pré has been so deeply hurt by the personal attacks made on her by the British music establishment that she no longer reads anything written about her or her sister. The honesty shines from the face of a woman who has shouldered with love and stoicism a burden which would make most of us buckle. I hope she does not. I hope the film is a resounding success. And I hope her critics feel rotten.

● Arts, Page 37

## THE EFFECTS OF MS

THE musical intelligentsia is now arguing about Jacqueline du Pré's personality. Writers to *The Times* extol her virtues, while a contributor to the BBC's *Today* said she was "perfectly ghastly". The disagreement is not surprising. Jacqueline du Pré was suffering from a disease which would have fundamentally altered her personality.

The physical changes in her brain resulting from multiple sclerosis would, in the earliest stages, have waxed and waned so that any character defects would have varied from month to month or year to year. As with any brain damage, existing imperfections are likely to be exaggerated.

Forty years ago, when I was houseman at the Charing Cross Hospital, doctors debated whether MS was more likely to cause depression or hypomania (an unreasonably euphoric approach to life, coupled very often with inflated self-esteem, loquaciousness, irritability and sexual disinhibition). The argument was pointless — many patients have no detectable character changes, but others can exhibit either trait. A survey in 1991 showed 42 per cent of sufferers to be depressed, but the mechanism was not properly understood and in any case a character change hardly seemed surprising in view of their physical condition. Only when MRI scanning became established was it demonstrated that multiple sclerosis was liable to attack the higher centres which determine character.

PERSONALITY change may occur before a patient shows classic signs of multiple sclerosis such as transitory double vision, loss of balance, weakness of the limbs, changes in sensation or an uncertain bladder. Personality changes may be harder for a family to deal with than physical disability, as was revealed in *Families Affected by Multiple Sclerosis — Disease Impact and Coping Strategies*, published by the American National MS Society.

There was once, perhaps, an argument for keeping quiet about a deterioration in behaviour. Physical problems were enough for patients to deal with, without them worrying about their psyche — and, in any case, little could be done. The situation is now different. Multiple sclerosis can be treated with the beta interferons — interferon beta-la or interferon beta-lb, such drugs as Betaferon (interferon beta-la) and Avonex, and recently Rebif (interferon beta-lb).

Initially, interferon beta-lb was recommended only for patients whose condition was relapsing and remitting. Now it has been shown to help all patients. Only one in ten of patients at the relapsing-remitting stage receives treatment in Britain. About five times more receive it in Europe. Interferon is expensive but, if it had been available to Jacqueline du Pré, she might not only have been a great, if emotional, musician beloved by all, but perhaps have spared her family and friends such turmoil.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

## STARRING ROLES AND SHATTERED REPUTATIONS

KNOCKING icons off their pedestals is a surprisingly rare sport in film. Not only is it considered bad taste, but it can be a hazardous and potentially expensive business. For every reputation successfully dismantled on screen, hundreds more are inflated, lionised or simply embellished. Nevertheless, there is a hardy strain of film that has genuinely succeeded in damaging, forever, the popular perceptions of some of our best-known cultural icons.

Four years after Joan Crawford's death in 1977, Frank Perry adapted her daughter Christina's novel *Mommie Dearest* into a blistering screen attack on the legendary actress. Faye Dunaway offered a brilliant impersonation of Crawford as a demented mother who, when not screeching for an axe, created hair-raising scenes over her daughter's preference for padded clothes-hangers.

In Mike Nichols's 1990 film *Postcards from the Edge*, Carrie Fisher gave much the same treatment to her mother, Debbie Reynolds, in an exposé of their volatile, drug-fuelled relationship.

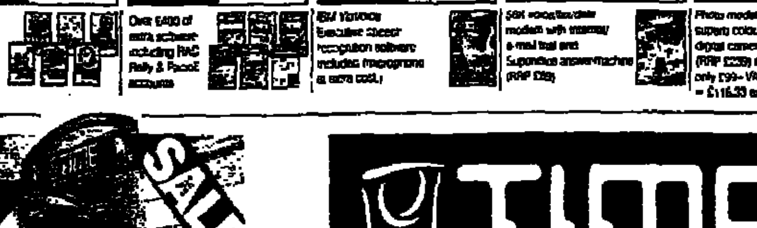
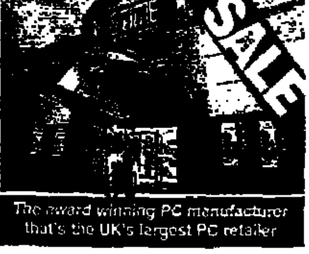
Big political scalps have always been elusive. Oliver Stone was too much seduced by the power and charisma of Richard Nixon to truly put the boot in with his 1995 film *Nixon*. But Mike Nichols does manage a revealing and tantalising insight into Bill Clinton's character in his recent film *Primary Colors*. Even though presented as fiction, the film manages to be a near-definitive portrait of one of the most compromised Presidents in history.

The arts have always boasted the most fragile reputations. Few will ever look at T.S. Eliot and Vivienne Haigh-Wood in the same light after Brian Gilbert's 1994 film *Tom and Viv*, in which the painfully repressed poet fails to deal with the mental instability and medical difficulties of his lover. Francis Bacon came out of John Maybury's *Love is the Devil* (1998) as a manipulative sexual predator who sacrificed his gay, suicidal lover to his art. And Mozart and Beethoven emerged from Milos Forman's *Amadeus* (1984) and Bernard Rose's *Immortal Beloved* (1994) as foul-mouthed, manic-depressive geniuses. But the figure who has suffered the most unlikely demise is Jesus Christ, in *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. To many, the Bible has never been quite the same since.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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# A hole at the heart of this parliament

## Once you get behind the jargon, there's still something missing

Reading government reports these days is like being smothered in cottonwool. The jargon is so pervasive that you sometimes wonder whether those who write actually know what they are trying to say.

Take this: "The aim is to provide an open, accessible, and above all participative Parliament, which will take a proactive approach to engaging with the Scottish people — in particular those groups traditionally excluded from the democratic process." Or this: "We believe that the arrangements for the programming of business in the Scottish parliament should be inclusive and transparent, and should provide reasonable time for business initiated by non-executive parties . . ." Or this: "Power-sharing is not only about the balance of power between the Scottish executive and the Scottish parliament, but also about the empowerment of external groups and individuals in all sectors of Scottish society."

This kind of language may be largely gobbledegook for the shopper on Paisley High Street, but if it makes sense to the 1 per cent of the population which is likely to read it, is that not enough? After all, those key-words — accessible, participative, empowerment — are part of the lexicon of our times. The document I quote from is — perhaps — one of the key constitutional papers of our time. It is the report of the Government's consultative steering group (itself a jargon title) on how a Scottish parliament will govern. This is a latter-day Bagehot, an Erskine May in the making. It will set the tone for a new era in democracy. It had better be clear.

*Magnus Linklater*

Because what it proposes is, if my translation is accurate, revolutionary. In seeking to shape a parliament as different as possible from the Westminster model, it has shifted power away from the elected administration, with its Cabinet and its traditional areas of influence, towards the members themselves, and even towards non-elected interests outside. It challenges the sole right of government to frame and enact Bills, and it hands to the lowliest backbencher the ability to determine the fate of ministers and even the administration. All-party parliamentary committees will have the right, not just to scrutinise legislation, but to initiate Bills and pilot them through parliament, whatever the government of the day thinks of them. The power of the executive is diminished.

It requires a First Minister (as the Scottish Prime Minister will be called) to obtain the agreement of the parliament before appointing ministers. It enables a simple majority of members to veto any individual the FM (yes, we will have to learn to love that too) comes up with. It hands parliament the right to remove a government law officer by a simple majority. It gives individual members the right to present a motion of no confidence in the executive (or government). It authorises committees to conduct inquiries into any aspect of policy, to summon and examine ministers at will, to carry out a thorough assessment of laws passed or about to be passed. These and other measures amount to a democratic process that is far more Scandinavian than British — indeed the document is peppered with allusions to Norwegian and Swedish procedures.

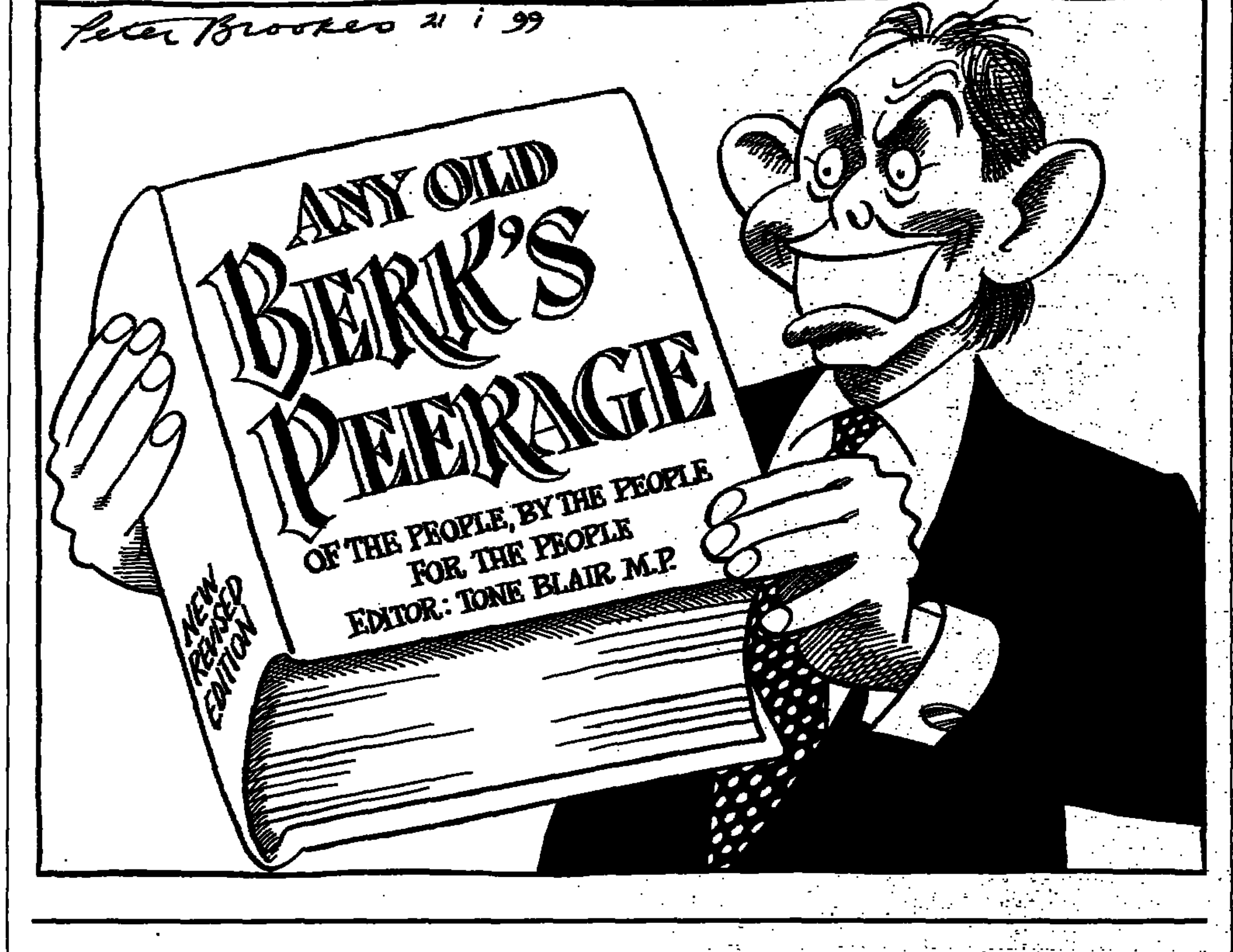
Some of it sounds eminently sensible. The idea of ordinary working hours, reasonable holidays, and a clearly set-out code of conduct, should avoid some of the crises, both human and political, that have been a regular feature of the House of Commons. There will be an oath of allegiance, a proper Question Time once a week, a clearly defined four-year term, a set of committees covering broadly the same areas as their Westminster equivalents, and a Speaker (or Presiding Officer) whose remit is every bit as broad as Betty Boothroyd's. Indeed, given the interpretation that these rules will require, the Presiding Officer may turn out to be the most important person in the parliament. He (or she) will have to restrain the interventionist instincts of the Nationalists, and ensure that the consensus which the steering group envisages is given a chance to survive.

But the biggest question of all is nowhere addressed. Just what is this new body going to do? What is its vision, its sense of purpose? What will it achieve? A parliament is elected not just to manage the affairs of state, but to direct them, to show the people it represents where they should be going, and to get them there. It should be ready to govern, to push through measures which are likely to be unpopular, to take a stand which may require facing down the majority rather than acceding to it.

The last person I should be quoting at this point is Margaret Thatcher. After all, her style of government is precisely what a Scottish parliament is seeking to avoid. And yet she did articulate one aspect of government which this document avoids: the way in which policy is implemented rather than simply framed. At one point, early in her first administration, she said: "If you're going to do the things you want to do — and I'm only in politics to do things — you've got to have a togetherness, a unity in your Cabinet. There are two ways of making a Cabinet. One way is to have in it people who represent all the different viewpoints within the party, within the broad philosophy. The other way is to have in it only the people who want to go in the direction which every instinct tells me we have to go. Clearly, steadily, firmly, with resolution."

There is much in this blueprint for a Scottish parliament to applaud, much even to admire. But if there is to be real meaning behind the jargon, it will require an element not much referred to in its 170 pages of closely argued text, and that is a fairly simple one. It is called leadership.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*




# After the gold rush

## The US economy is too strong to collapse when the Internet bubble bursts

Has the world gone completely mad? This question is heard these days with increasing frequency — and increasing desperation — in Edinburgh and the City of London, in Geneva and Zurich, in Boston and New York.

For years, the professional investment managers who earn telephone-number salaries for investing our trillions of pounds, dollars and euros in pension funds, insurance policies and unit trust savings, have been mocking the greedy fools — the naive, inexperienced American widows and orphans — who were buying shares in computer, Internet and electronics companies at ridiculously inflated prices. The experts have been warning that Wall Street, the financial home of 90 per cent of the world's electronic technology companies, is caught up in the mother and father of all speculative bubbles, a bubble whose inevitable explosion will eventually trigger a 1930s-style economic collapse in the United States and perhaps the world as a whole.

Yet with every such warning, Wall Street has soared even higher, with Internet and computer stocks doubling and redoubling. By the end of last week the frenzy had reached such a point that Yahoo!, an Internet indexing service which earned its first dollar only a year ago, was worth more than General Motors; Amazon.com, an online bookseller which has never even made a profit, is now the second most valuable retail firm in America. And that was all before this week's record-breaking takeoff on Wall Street, which saw the main indexes of US technology shares jump by 10 per cent in two days.

So who is right? The sober investment professionals who see the Internet frenzy as, at worst, an impending calamity and, at best, a ludicrous aberration — a millennial version of tulipmania and the South Sea Bubble? Or "naive" Americans, who are watching their "stupid" Internet investments double every six months — and are gradually reorientating their entire economy and way of life around the Internet and computer technology?

Well, I agree with both. Most of the shares hyped by today's Internet investors will be literally worthless within a few years or even perhaps months. Yet America's — and Wall Street's — faith in computer technology will continue to be richly rewarded in the long run.

It is very important, not only for investors but also for politicians and ordinary voters, to understand why both these statements are likely to be true. It is all too easy for technological Luddites and cultural conservatives in Europe and Asia to dismiss the "American model" of rapid economic growth, low unemployment and seemingly unstoppable prosperity as a "bubble phenomenon", a brief historical aberration related to mindless stock market speculation rather than any genuine superiority in American technology or economic management. I think this is a profound mistake. In arguing this, I must first explain my personal position.

*Anatole Kaletsky*

I am a fully committed electronic "nerd". I bought my first PC, the size of a small suitcase, in 1982. I have five computers at home and I carry my laptop, my mobile phone and my "mini-Reuters" personal news and market pager wherever I go, often working in taxis or on the Tube. I do most of my worldwide communication by e-mail. I bank on the Internet and have moved my PEPs to an online broker. And last year I arranged an entire four-week holiday in the United States, including finding and booking a beautiful beach house in Martha's Vineyard, entirely through the Internet.

Despite all this personal enthusiasm for technology, I am as convinced as any Luddite in the British investment community that American technology stocks will sooner or later collapse. To see why, it is only necessary to make two observations. First, nobody has yet found a way of making significant profits out of the Internet, whether by offering advertising, by charging for access or by selling goods and services. But much more dangerous for investors than the absence of a successful business model is a second objection: that as soon as a way of making serious money is discovered, competition will drive most of today's Internet companies out of business. Intense competition is, after all, the Internet's most essential quality — the costs of starting a business to sell goods or run a bank, or even to publish a newspaper on the Internet, are tiny compared with the costs of employing thousands of salesmen, setting up hundreds of branches or distributing millions of pages of newsprint.

So Internet companies will find it very difficult to make sustainably high profits unless they control proprietary technologies, enjoy powerful brand loyalty or offer services that are not only good but impossible to replicate.

At present, none of this is true. And although investors currently assume that the first company to sell books, to index products, or to market computers, on the Internet will establish an unshakeable loyalty among consumers, there is no reason to suppose that this will be true.

Economists describe the key problem faced by Internet businesses as "low barriers to entry". It can be put more graphically: the real danger of the Internet gold rush is not that the mother lode has yet to be discovered. A much greater hazard is that the pioneering prospectors, when they finally do strike paydirt, will be trampled to death by the thousands behind them in the rush.

But the dubious financial outlook for firms whose only real attraction to investors is that they offer a glint of Internet gold-dust should not hide the far more important business and social implications of the new technology. And the justifiable concern about an "Internet bubble" on Wall Street should not distract attention from the genuine strength of the American economy. Still less should it be used by economic policymakers in Europe and Japan as an excuse for failing to learn from America's economic success.

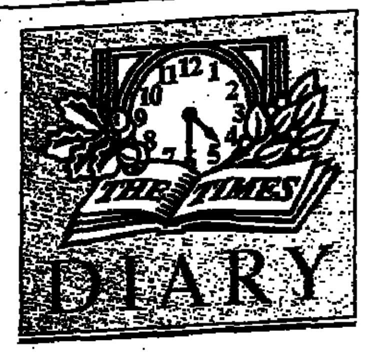
As recently as last month, for example, both Wim Duisenberg, the head of the European Central Bank, and Eisuke Sakakibara, the head of Japan's Ministry of Finance, maintained that they had little to learn from America's prosperity, which was simply based on a stock market bubble. Americans were living off unsustainable stock market gains and had stopped saving for the future. Once stock market prices fell, the American economy would simply collapse. But the notion that Americans would ultimately be impoverished by the bursting of the stock market bubble is highly implausible.

The idea that Americans have stopped saving because of their stock market gains is largely a statistical illusion, caused by the fact that taxes on realised capital gains are deducted from personal income, while the gains are not counted as income. As shown in a recent report by Douglas Lee, the Washington-based US economist for HSBC, American saving would not have fallen between 1995 and 1997 if taxes and capital gains had been treated in a consistent way. In fact, Americans have saved so much that, even after a 40 per cent collapse of the stock market, American families would have more savings than they ever had before 1996 — and more than the Germans or the Japanese. Thus cynics who expect the American economy to be destroyed when the Internet bubble explodes will be disappointed.

Maintaining a sober, realistic attitude to the Internet bubble is even more important from a longer-term industrial and social perspective. In the long term it hardly matters whether or, more precisely, when investors will lose their fortunes in an explosion of the Internet bubble.

What matters more is that the rest of the world should learn from America's exemplary success in both macroeconomic management and industrial policy. What matters even more is that we all realise that new electronic technologies will dominate the most important businesses of the future; that countries whose national cultures embrace these technologies will enjoy a big competitive advantage and that the Internet specifically will revolutionise our way of life.

*anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk*




# Bite back

REVENGE for Geoffrey Robinson, who is writing his autobiography. It promises to deliver a nasty knock to the PM; but most alarmingly it could reveal other beneficiaries of his largesse, and name the culprit who leaked the story of his fateful house loan to Peter Mandelson.

Robinson will also dwell on his humble origins with his parents Bob and Dot. Having established his proletarian credentials, the millionaire protégé of Robert Maxwell is likely to relish the chance to disclose the behind-the-scenes backbiting which caused his fall. As well as detailing Cabinet splits, he could name his erstwhile crony, Charlie Whelan, as the source of the leak.

When I rang rich Robbo at his suite at Grosvenor House he was coy: "I could not possibly talk to you about it, but it was delightful of you to call." If it cheers up the old boy...

● *WELL done Ben Wegg-Prosser, able young aide to Peter Mandelson, who is going over to the enemy as assistant to the Editor of* The Sun. *A peacemaker, he will patch up a few strained friendships.*

## Acting up

OUR grandest theatrical Dame, Judi Dench, has forgiven Gwyneth Paltrow (left). On the set of *Shakespeare in Love*, Judi moaned to the director about the starlet's "diva-like antics" (Gwyneth enjoyed being driven the 50ft from her trailer to the set, and Dame Judi said she "would be happier if the leading lady would speak to me once in a while"). At the film's post-première party, Gwyneth was glacially polite: "Goodbye all. Goodbye photographers, goodbye Judi, see you soon." "Oh, surely," said Dench, with impressive enthusiasm.



● *SUPPORT for Menzies Campbell to replace Paddy Ashdown has been damaged by his support for Tony Blair's bombing of Baghdad, not least because he failed to tell Lib-Dem MPs that he was to be made a Privy Counsellor. "It's a choice between two lazy dogs," says a senior figure. "Charles Kennedy or Nick Harvey."*

## Bug trouble

NERDS were pleasantly puzzled when Margaret Beckett presented NCC awards to firms inoculating themselves against the millennium bug. Strangely, ministers keep well clear of such does. Some in the audience wondered if the Leader of the House, a caravan enthusiast, confused the sponsor, the National Computing Centre, with the National Caravanning Club.



'Unless you carry an opt-out card, your body will be used for Chinese medicine'

● *NEVER a natural Liberal, Paddy Ashdown. When elected leader, he sent a memo: "Please remove David Steel's dead animal from my wall." It was a tiger skin from Chief Buthelezi. He was so detached that once he even had to be shown to his Lords whips' office.*

## Paisley ploy

IAN PAISLEY Jr is spreading his unique brand of Protestant supremacy in next week's *Catholic Herald*. The son of the DUP leader is to justify why he is touting for members in Liverpool. Youngish Paisley attacks Catholics for questioning his party's plans to move to the mainland, and mutters about the need for "a dose of enlightenment". Cristina Odone, once the paper's astutely controversial Editor, is appalled: "He should not have a platform. This could have dangerous effects on Liverpool."

JASPER GERARD

# 'In rapture, and almost in shock, the Democratic Party embraced President Clinton's vision'

The minute that President Clinton walked on to the floor of the House of Representatives on Tuesday night, it was obvious how foolish Republicans had been to dream that they might bully him into cancelling his State of the Union address.

There is no setting that shows off his political talents to more advantage than the big speech, delivered under siege, pitched to ordinary Americans clear over the heads of his foes. Standing in the well of the House in front of his massed accusers, speaking fluently for 75 minutes, he proved an outstanding witness for the case that he should be allowed to serve out the remaining 730 days of his presidency.

His day job — formally defending himself in the Senate against charges of perjury and obstruction of justice — is going less well. That is not the fault of his lawyers; the weakness is in the case they have to present. Even so, in a drama which already looked likely to tilt in their favour in the end, their client has gone a long way to write himself a happy ending.

It cannot have been fun, though, to be on the Clinton legal team this week. The prosecution, in the shape of 13 managers of the House of Representatives, had launched a powerful opening attack, reaching a folksy, populist climax on Saturday. With relish, they adopted comically varied styles — the excessive gravitas of a Founding Father, the showy slickness of an *LA Law* hotshot, or the obsessive tenacity of an Oliver Stone protagonist. But they each homed in on a single point, with powerful repetition: no man is above the law.

The President's leading lawyer, Charles Ruff, was right not to attempt to match this showmanship. For five hours on Tuesday, slouched in his wheelchair, he quietly laid out the case for the defence. He scored good points on the uncorroborated status of the evidence and on factual errors in the prosecution's case. He revived the notion of censure as a possible compromise.



*Bronwen Maddox*

But he was stuck with the embarrassing legal straddle which lies at the heart of the Clinton defence: the claim that the President isn't guilty, but that even if he is, the offences are not serious enough to justify removing him from office. That dual claim will not sound any better as the days go on. But for now, at least, Americans don't want him pushed out.

That sentiment strengthened with Tuesday's speech. The President strode on to the House floor, hugging supporters and enemies, and declared: "My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong." If you hadn't known he was the second President in American history to be impeached, and that he was fighting for the survival of his presidency, you would never have guessed it.

The Democrats' responses were faultlessly choreographed, with Vice-President Al Gore leading them in standing ovation after ovation. Mr Clinton praised by name a calculated but moving roster of guests from the widows of the two recently murdered Capitol Hill police officers to Rosa Parks, who inspired the civil rights movement when she refused to sit in the back of an Alabama bus. As skilfully, he unveiled a wish-list which Republicans will find dangerous to block, even though it undermines their plans for tax cuts. His centrepiece — a vow to use the budget surplus to restock the state pension scheme — is hugely popular. So is more cash for education. There is hardly anything which Republicans could strike down without reigniting charges that they are the hard-hearted party of the rich.

From a President who has outraged much of his party by his centrism, it was a clearly Democratic vision of the future. In rapture, and almost in shock, his party embraced it.

For a year, Mr Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky has paralysed the country's politics. As Joe Klein, author of *Primary Colors*, said in *The New Yorker*, that this may have been no bad thing, preventing itchy politicians from interfering with the economy. Mr Clinton might mischievously claim to have lifted government off the backs of the people, even if he has forced it on to their television screens.

But his State of the Union speech did more than vastly improve his chances of staying in office: he laid out a game-plan for his party. He reminded the country, and his opponents, that under the savage partisan feuding are real ideological divisions. Republicans may find, if they focus simply on Ms Lewinsky, that they fail to force him out of office and fail also to look ahead to the greater battle, the year 2000 election.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*




# THE ASHDOWN PARTY

## A departure in his own time and with his own legacy

It is given to few actors at Westminster to choose their time to leave the stage. Fate often robs politicians of what they believe destiny owes them. But yesterday, by announcing his resignation as Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown chose to shape a day's events rather than submit to them. In that respect his going matches his tenure as leader. More than any other Liberal leader in living memory Mr Ashdown shaped the party of his time.

Mr Ashdown became leader at a moment of grieving for Liberals. The high expectations which had attended the birth of the Liberal/SDP alliance in 1981 had given way to electoral reverses and recrimination by 1987. Out of the ashes, a new party was formed and although social democratic dissidents saw it as no more than Liberalism rebranded, the Liberal Democrats were a genuinely new force.

Mr Ashdown attempted to fuse the traditional Liberal emphasis on dispersal of power with the more disciplined, even technocratic, strains of the SDP. It was hard pounding. But after the humiliation of trailing behind the Greens in the 1989 European elections, the party, as a useful vehicle of protest for those alienated by both Neil Kinnock and Margaret Thatcher, began to score notable victories in by-elections. The slow degeneration of the Conservatives under John Major, and the subsequent modernisation of Labour under Tony Blair, created new opportunities, and threats, for Mr Ashdown.

His stature was enhanced by the wisdom and humanity of his response to the Bosnian conflict and his popularity grew with his increasing mastery of the media. Building on a strong base in local government, he read the 1997 election with calm foresight, exploiting anti-Tory feeling to secure the largest parliamentary representation for any third party since the time of Lloyd George. Although this force was newly-swollen and confident, it was dwarfed by Labour's majority. But Mr Ashdown exploited a warm personal relationship with Mr Blair, and habits of co-operation developed during the campaign for a Scottish Parliament, to secure a remarkable level of influence on the new Government. Liberals secured places on a Cabinet committee and Mr Ashdown defeated his dissidents to forge an evolving policy of co-operation.

Mr Blair's devolution schemes and his adoption of proportional representation for European elections were Labour measures but Liberal Democrat victories. The greatest prize, proportional representation for Westminster, eluded Mr Ashdown's grasp, snatched from it by Labour's own conservatives. That failure led many to question the wisdom of Mr Ashdown's constructive stance towards Labour. But purist regrets should not blind Liberals to the scale of their gains. They should recognise that half a loaf is better than crumbs from the table.

Who will now inherit the spread? The most respected of Mr Ashdown's lieutenants, and his closest ally in co-operating with Labour, is Menzies Campbell. But his age would give his leadership a sense of the caretaker. Among the younger MPs Malcolm Bruce, Charles Kennedy, Simon Hughes and Nick Harvey stand out. But the first three not only lack Mr Campbell's weight: they also do not share his enthusiasm for co-operation. Mr Harvey, although closer to the party's rural roots, is remarkable among Liberals for his euro-scepticism. The leadership election to come may be civil, but it cannot avoid laying bare the tensions within Liberal Democracy. It is a tribute to Mr Ashdown that he will be all the more then seen to have managed those strains with skill, grace and fortitude.

# WAKEHAM'S WATCH

## An opportunity for substantial and timely Lords reform

Six months ago the Government's plans for a reformed second chamber were near shambles. Its Stage One proposals for an interim House were set to give Tony Blair a power of patronage unknown since Oliver Cromwell introduced a wholly nominated Upper House in 1657. Its thoughts for Stage Two were so vague as to suggest that no serious scheme would ever be enacted. A parliamentary war on all fronts appeared inevitable. As a result, Mr Blair sacked Lord Richard who had, eventually, tried and failed to achieve some consensus. In one of the wilder twists in a tortured tale, Lord Cranborne was then sacked by William Hague because he succeeded in meeting that task.

The White Paper published yesterday does not bring the Government entirely out of the woods but it does bring a decent outcome much closer. The Royal Commission, to be chaired by Lord Wakeham, has an opportunity to rebalance Britain's constitution. The appointment of the former Conservative Cabinet minister is exceptionally cunning even by the standards of this Prime Minister. It will not now be easy for the Opposition to suggest that the Commission is in a Downing Street pocket. While he is more of a "fixer" than a philosopher on constitutional questions, that may prove an advantage. The options for Lords reform are limited, well-known and do not require much intellectual anguish: there will be other members of the Commission to fulfil the Nuffield College role.

The transitional arrangements put forward by the Government are broadly satisfactory. Mr Blair is entitled to seek a more balanced partisan position than that which presently prevails. He has abandoned a modest but significant degree of personal patronage. The notion of "people's peers" is a belated candidate for the most crass and shameless British political stunt of the century. But this part need not invalidate the whole.

The Royal Commission has been set a suitably strict timetable and appropriately elastic terms of reference. The best final settlement would be, as we outlined last summer, a mixture of directly elected and independently appointed members. The Government, it seems from the White Paper, sympathises with such a strategy. It is important, however, that the proportion of directly elected representatives is high enough to bring the new chamber legitimacy. A token 15 or 20 per cent would not satisfy that demand; 50 per cent would.

There is a case, as George Foulkes, MP, is arguing, for some nominated members to be drawn from or determined by the Scottish parliament and Welsh and Ulster assemblies. This may strengthen the fragile bonds of the United Kingdom. Nomination from the various English regional bodies that the Government may create is far less convincing. That would smack of inventing an artificial function for these rightly unloved prospective creatures. Britain does not need a pseudo-federal model based on the German *Bundesrat*.

If the Royal Commission sticks to its schedule, the Stage Two reform should be ready by the end of this Parliament. It is unlikely that Lord Wakeham and his colleagues will devise a prospectus that is administratively or politically impractical. A stronger and more credible second chamber is essential if the checks and balances that once operated within Parliament are to be reconstructed. The Government needs to be equally radical when it comes to restoring the authority of the House of Commons. There is still some distance from a final outcome. But what once threatened to be a dog's breakfast may now become a more appealing meal.

# SPARE THE AU PAIR

## A policy that harms those it seeks to help

The minimum wage is intended to help those on low pay. Yet, as we report today, among the first victims of this counter-productive policy when it is introduced in April are likely to be Britain's au pairs. No doubt motivated by good intentions, the Department of Trade and Industry has stated that these young foreigners should be eligible for the minimum wage. If the Government sincerely wishes to make childcare affordable for working parents, it should heed pleas to exempt au pairs from this damaging piece of interventionist meddling.

For hard-pressed parents, who cannot afford a nanny, au pairs provide a perfect option to help with child care and light domestic chores. To young foreigners, working in a British home while being given pocket money is an ideal means of supporting themselves as they study English. By fulfilling their mutual needs in this way, the relationship between au pair and "host" family is unlike that between most employers and employees. Many au pairs are assimilated into their families, eating meals at the same table, even going on holiday together. Few would compare themselves with sweatshop workers, slaving away for a pittance.

Ministers, however, appear to have bundled au pairs in with other workers whom they regard as on poverty pay or unprotected from exploitation. Although there will always be potential exploiters, the Home Office already regulates an au pair's work and placement. Its guidelines stipulate that au pairs are young foreigners who "come to the United Kingdom for the purposes of learning the English language". In return for free board, lodging and pocket money of about £40 a week, the au pair is expected to work about five hours a day, with two days off a week.

Forcing parents to pay au pairs aged 18 to 21 £3.00 an hour, and those aged 22 and over £3.60 an hour, would increase their pocket money to between £75 and £90 per week. For many low and medium paid parents this could be the increase that forces them to look elsewhere for child care. Lower demand for au pairs would lessen the inducement for young foreigners to come to Britain to learn English, denying them the rich and valuable experience that others have enjoyed.

Au pairs are exempt from another costly regulation, the Working Time Directive. The same common sense should be applied to the minimum wage. If Ministers are concerned about the plight of au pairs, they should enforce the existing regulations more stringently. The minimum wage will do more harm than good.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Morality of UK's manufacture and export of arms

*From the Chairman and Chief Executive of Alvis plc*

Sir, The only coherent basis for blanket opposition to the arms trade, as emotionally expressed by Matthew Parris in his column, "Arms and immorality" (January 16), is pacifism.

To believe in the right of sovereign states to resist aggression by force, as I imagine Matthew Parris does, but simultaneously to oppose the international trade in defence equipment, is tantamount to restricting the right of self-defence to those countries capable of producing all their own military equipment needs. This is nonsensical, even immoral.

The RAF is buying transport helicopters from the US because it would be uneconomic to build them here. The UK is exporting Hawk jet trainers to Australia. Only pacifists could argue that this is wrong, and it follows from this that the policy which successive British governments have followed for many years, which is that defence equipment exports are right in some circumstances and wrong in others, is the right one.

Matthew Parris argues that the policy is cynically applied. I have been involved in the defence exporting business for more than 20 years, both in Whitehall and in the private sector, and that is not my experience. Successive British governments of different political persuasions have acted with an acute sense of responsibility in exercising their judgment on when defence exports should be allowed and when not. The fact that in a small number of cases such judgments have been proved to be wrong, usually with the benefit of hindsight, does not invalidate the policy which requires such judgments to be made.

The argument that the UK's economic performance has been adversely affected by the level of defence expenditure, or of defence research in particular, is, to say the least, unproven. For every academic study that supports this there is another which supports the opposite view.

In fact, UK defence expenditure has declined sharply as a percentage of GNP, and one does not have to be an economist to believe that at today's level of £1.3 billion per annum, or less than 0.2 per cent of GNP, government spending on defence research is unlikely to be a crucial determinant of UK economic performance.

I am not expert on Eurofighter, but it has been developed by a number of European countries not for its export potential but to meet a perceived European defence need, and is therefore irrelevant to the argument about defence exports.

To attempt to boil down all the issues involved in defence export policy into one question of whether it is right to sell an African a gun with which to shoot another African is a good rhetorical trick, but it does not do justice either to the important security, political and economic issues involved, or to the respectable moral basis on which many thousands of people work in the defence manufacturing and exporting business.

Yours faithfully,
NICK PREST,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Alvis plc,
34 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1W 0AL.
January 18.

*From Sir David Gore-Booth*

Sir, I don't often feel the need to quibble with Matthew Parris. But I must take issue with part of his soul-searching piece on the arms trade.

The then Government did not authorise the sale of arms worth £630 million to President Saddam Hussein. True, there was an Export Credits Guarantee Department line of credit: and, true, Saddam still owes us the money; but this was not for arms.

As I and others made clear to Sir Richard Scott at his inquiry, the Government was extremely cautious about selling arms to Saddam (unlike some others). Such sales were counted in tens rather than hundreds of millions of pounds and consisted mainly of radios and Range Rovers.

Under the "case by case" approach which Parris calls unworkable, a deal to sell Hawk aircraft to Iraq (which might have been worth the sort of figure he mentions) was shot down.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GORE-BOOTH
(Assistant Under Secretary of State, Middle East, 1989-92),
27 Wetherby Mansions,
Earl's Court Square, SW5 9BH.

## Wilson and the US

*From Sir Trevor Lloyd-Hughes*

Sir, Prime Minister Harold Wilson pondered privately the idea of Britain becoming politically attached to the US (letters, December 30 and January 7). He never committed himself to official studies or papers, but, in my hearing, he twice discussed the idea personally with President Lyndon Johnson in the late 1960s.

Rebuffed by de Gaulle's "Non" to our entry into the EEC, increasingly dubious about the economic and political value of the Commonwealth, Wilson was acknowledging that since the last battle between us, at New Orleans in January 1815, Britain and America have been allies.

Militarily and financially, the US has aided us throughout this century; we do speak, roughly, the same language, which happens to be (what no European country can claim) the world's lingua franca; and, as Wilson knew, the winds of technical innovation and economic investment, like those of the weather, blow east across the Atlantic.

Should Britain move east or west, or stand alone? Whether continental Europe flounders or succeeds in moves towards closer political as well as economic union, this question, shelved by Wilson, will have to be faced in the next decade.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR LLOYD-HUGHES
(Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1964-69; Chief Information Adviser to the Government, 1969-70),
52 Glen Road, Castle Bytham,
Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 4RJ.
January 8.

## Natural erosion of our coastline

*From the Minister for Fisheries and the Countryside*

Sir, Attempts to stop the natural processes that lead to the coastal erosion of Beachy Head would not only be doomed to failure but, as English Nature's Chief Scientist pointed out (letter, January 13), could also in many cases be undesirable.

Coastal erosion is a complex process and different solutions must be applied to different areas. We cannot simply go on building higher and higher walls in the face of rising sea levels. The time will inevitably come when we have to accept that nature will reshape our coastline in some areas. However, decisions will be made strategically and based on a clear assessment of the nature and value of the assets that are at risk. Shoreline management plans are being produced for the whole coastline of England and Wales. These address most of your leading article's concerns (January 18).

Mr John Gummer, MP, is wrong in claiming that this Government has implemented "savage" cuts in financial support for flood and coastal defences (report, January 13). Significant reductions were made to the grant rate formula for coast protection from April 1997 by the previous administration. In contrast, MAFF funding has been increased from April 1999 for the next three years, and local authorities have had their Standard Spending Assessments increased by 4.9 per cent — somewhat above inflation.

I will not deny that there are some complexities but, contrary to your leading article's suggestion, MAFF is the single department in Whitehall with overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal defence in England.

Yours sincerely,
ELLIOT MORLEY,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food,
Nobel House,
17 Smith Square, SW1P 3JR.
January 20.

*From Mr Roland Castro*

Sir, The erosion of our coastline described in your Weekend supplement (January 16) is certainly alarming.

Are there lessons to be learnt from the Dutch who have successfully reclaimed so much of their country from the sea?

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND CASTRO,
3 Chester Close, SW1X 7BE.
January 17.

## Goodman allegations

*From Mr Michael Geliot*

Sir, I was very distressed to read your report today concerning allegations of financial impropriety against Lord Goodman. It is particularly sad that these have arisen now that he is sadly, and safely, dead.

As a most unimportant young man in the 1960s, I had the benefit of Lord Goodman's advice, support and unfailing courtesy and consideration. He granted me invaluable time, as well as significant financial help, on many occasions amid his busy life, quite obviously altruistically. True, I sometimes had to visit him at breakfast time, once at the House of Lords before and after he made a speech. I have never experienced such ungrudging and unpatronising patronage.

I cannot have been alone in this — but Lord Goodman did good by stealth. For me his name is entirely apt.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GELIOT,
32 Beeches Road, SW17 7LZ.
January 19.

*From Sir Hugh Leggatt*

Sir, Lord Goodman was a great man whose generosity was boundless, particularly to those whose worthwhile aspirations merited his civilised concern.

It is a pity that his accusers should denigrate his reputation when he is no longer able to defend himself.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
Flat 1, 10 Bury Street,
St James's, SW1Y 6AA.
January 19.

## Medical negligence

*From Dr Michael Saunders, Chief Executive of The Medical Defence Union*

Sir, The number of medical negligence claims ("Litigation: will it be a free-for-all?", Law, January 12) is increasing at a rate of about 15 per cent a year. This has been reflected up to now by a similar increase in the size of compensation awards to patients.

In the last financial year the Medical Defence Union paid £48 million in compensation to patients — up from £39 million the previous year — and recent changes in the way that these awards are assessed mean that we can expect much larger payouts in the future. Over the last few months there have been a number of individual awards of over £3 million.

There is no evidence of a fall in clinical standards amongst the medical profession. Instead, changes in public attitudes and awareness have meant that patients are more likely to seek compensation through the courts. Where patients are harmed as a result of medical negligence it is right that they should be compensated fairly and quickly.

Litigation cost the NHS £235 million in 1996-97, much of which would have been accounted for by compensation payments for care that recipients had opted to take within the private sector. We believe that it is time for the Law Reform Act (Personal Injuries) 1948 to be amended so that patients who are harmed as result of NHS negligence can receive compensation that allows for their ongoing care by the NHS, and not from within the private sector.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAUNDERS,
Chief Executive,
The Medical Defence Union,
3 Devonshire Place, W1N 2EA.
January 15.

**Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.**
**e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

## Census and religion

*From Dr J. Sherif*

Sir, Dr David Coleman (letter, January 12) is unfair in singling out the Muslim community and other minorities over the proposed inclusion of religious affiliation in the 2001 census form. The need for such a question reflects the wishes of the main faith communities in the United Kingdom, including the Christian Churches.

An interfaith group, chaired by the Reverend Professor Leslie J. Francis, has prepared a "business case" in support of the proposal, using guidelines provided by the Office for National Statistics. Several government departments have indicated that statistics on religious affiliation would be very useful in their work, as it would lead to better resource allocation. So rather than creating a climate of "statistical apartheid", better data on religious affiliation will help in addressing issues of disadvantage and exclusion in society.

Australia, Canada and New Zealand have included such a question in their census. Is there evidence that this has "encouraged people to segregate themselves"?

Yours faithfully,
J. SHERIF
(Representative of the Muslim Council of Britain on the 2001 Census Religious Affiliation Group),
PO Box 52, Wembley HA9 0XW.
*jsherif@webstar.co.uk*
January 12.

## The morning after

*From Dr William Harrop-Griffiths*

Sir, Dr Edward Young's suggestion that the headache experienced on January 1, 2000, should be awarded the medical term "millennium dome" (letter, January 18) prompts me to think about the likely utterances of those suffering from the condition. For once, the traditional cry of "Never again!" will have real meaning.

Yours etc,
WILLIAM HARROP-GRIFFITHS,
11 Rodway Road, SW15 5DN.
*william@harrop-griffiths.demon.co.uk*
January 18.

*From Mr John Gillespie*

Sir, Could the term be "hypeover"? I do hope so.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GILLESPIE,
The Old Stables, Wissenden,
Bethersden, Kent TN26 3EL.

*From Mr John O'Byrne*

Sir, Hangovers will not pose a problem as most people will be suffering from acute millennui.

Yours truly,
JOHN O'BYRNE,
2 Mount Argus Court,
Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W.
January 18.

## Air noise threat to Britten legacy

*From the Chief Executive of Aldeburgh Productions and others*

Sir, The Aldeburgh Festival, Snape Maltings Concert Hall, the Britten-Pears School, the Britten-Pears Library — the legacy of Benjamin Britten, one of this country's greatest composers, is severely threatened.

This week the Inspector for the Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan Inquiry will hear evidence on whether aviation should be permitted at the redundant military base RAF Bentwaters, three miles from Snape.

Snape Maltings Concert Hall's legendary acoustics and its unique location in tranquil and beautiful marshlands have inspired some of the world's finest musicians to perform and record there, attracting audiences from all over the world. The immense cultural, educational and economic influence of this legacy faces irreparable damage.

The inspector should be under no illusion about the seriousness of this threat to one of our country's cultural jewels. We urge him to be bold and close the door on all aviation at Bentwaters.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN REEKIE,
Chief Executive,
Aldeburgh Productions,
EDWARD HEATH,
HUMPHREY LYTTELTON,
MURRAY PERAHIA,
GRIFF RHYS JONES,
JOAN SUTHERLAND,
Aldeburgh Productions,
High Street, Aldeburgh,
Suffolk IP15 5AX.
January 15.

## Early bath for RFU

*From Mr Michael Ambler*

Sir, I turned to the letters page today expecting to read any number of letters decrying the state of rugby administration. Instead there was one humorous letter on the state of prop forwards' ears.

Am I alone in wishing that the Rugby Football Union resign en masse and that elections be held to fill those posts with people who actually have the future of the game at heart? It seems to me that the RFU wants England to become the pariahs of rugby. The ongoing arguments about leagues, tours, Five Nations, etc, are enough to drive the average supporter or player to despair. It is a wonder that we see such good rugby week after week, when the players appear to have such poor support from those who control their destiny.

Perhaps the RFU should do away with their committees and working parties and get Bill Beaumont to discuss all the current problems over a glass of beer with the other countries.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL AMBLER,
8 Cornfield, Fareham,
Hampshire PO16 8UE.
January 20.

## Liquid intake

*From the Reverend Peter Mullen*

Sir, I have so often profited from the wisdom of my affectionate friend, distinguished colleague and former vicar Dr James Bentley (letter, January 15) that I am reluctant to reply to his most recent admonishment. However, I must insist that the tautologous nature of the injunction, "Drink more fluids" derives not from the understanding that, as Dr Bentley rightly informs us, fluids may be taken in by other methods than drinking, but from the fact that it is *only* fluids that can be drunk.

I realise we might drink a solution. But is this the answer?

Yours sincerely,
PETER MULLEN,
St Michael, Cornhill and
St Sepulchre-Without-Newgate,
The Watch House,
10 Giltspur Street, EC1A 9DE.
January 15.

## Doctors in a spin

*From Dr Henry Wickens*

Sir, Lord Denman's suggestion of "spinmongers" is an excellent one (letter, January 19), though I somehow suspect it won't catch on.

However, as a holder of a doctorate (and I don't know what "real" doctors think), my main objection to "spin-doctor" is not its usurping of the title but the fact that it mixes metaphors. You can put a spin on facts (as with a cricket ball or baseball), or you can doctor them (as with a set of accounts or a cat), but you can't doctor a spin, at least not on this side of the Atlantic.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY WICKENS,
14 Kalkewee,
L-7681 Waldbillig, Luxembourg.
January 19.

*From Mr Jim Ward*

Sir, May I suggest the term "glosser"? As well as sounding pejorative in its own right it lends itself to the construction of apposite limericks.

Yours etc,
JIM WARD,
30 Bennett Park,
Blackheath, SE3 9RB.
January 20.



# COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 20: The Princess Royal, Patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, today attended an International Task Force Symposium at 50 Hallam Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence, RN, this evening attended the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Horseshoe Appeal Banquet at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, Cheapside, London, EC2.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 20: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Friends of the Elderly, this afternoon visited The Old Vicarage, the Society's newly rebuilt Home in Moulsford, Oxfordshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire (Mr Hugo Brunner).

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 20: The Duke of Gloucester, Commissioner, English Heritage, today attended the Commissioners' Meeting at Fortress House, Savile Row, London W1.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary Patron, The Friends of the Institut Francais, attended a lunch given by the French Ambassador (His Excellency Monsieur Daniel Bernard) at 11 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 20: The Duke of Kent this morning visited The Essex Voluntary Association for the Blind's New Complex, Read House, 23 The Esplanade, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

His Royal Highness, President, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, this afternoon attended the opening of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent Court, Stisted Hall, near Braintree, Essex.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Colonel, The Blues and Royals, will visit Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge, at 9.30; and as president, Patrons of *Crime Concern*, will attend the Pru Youth Action luncheon at noon at Prudential, Holborn Bars, London, EC1, at noon.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a reception for AJEX Housing Association at AJEX House East Bank, Stamford Hill, London N16, at 3.00.

## Sir Alexander and Lady Cairncross

A service of thanksgiving for the lives of Sir Alexander and Lady Cairncross will be held in the University Chapel, University of Glasgow, on Saturday, January 23, 1999, at 12.30pm. All welcome.

## Highgate School

Mr John Mills has been appointed Treasurer and Chairman of Governors, with Sir Malcolm Field as Deputy Chairman, following the retirements of Mr David Richards and Mr Stuart Maclure.

## Hertfordshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Hertfordshire:

Sir Nigel Hawthorne, Lord Laming and Commander Bryan Smalley.

## Birthdays today

Mr Mark Boleat, director-general, Association of British Insurers, 50; Dr Alan Borg, director, Victoria and Albert Museum, 57; Sir John Burnett, former Vice-Chancellor, Edinburgh University, 77; Dr David Carey, former legal secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 82; Lord Cayzer, 89; Mr John Denison, former director, South Bank Concert Halls, 88; Mr Placido Domingo, tenor, 58; Mr George Foulkes, MP, 57; Dr John Hayes, former director, National Portrait Gallery, 70; Miss Jean Sarah Law, former Assistant Inspector of Constabulary, 83; Mr Ken Maginnis, MP, 61; Mr Jack Nicklaus, golfer, 59; Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, 61; Mr Paul Potts, Editor-in-Chief, The Press Association, 49; Miss Seona Reid, director, Scottish Arts Council, 49; Mr Paul Scofield, actor, 77; Mr Aubrey Singer, former deputy director-general and managing director, BBC Television, 72; Mr Christopher Stewart-Smith, former president, Association of British Chambers of Commerce, 58; the Marquess of Tavistock, 59; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge, 79; Sir Andrew Turnbull, civil servant, 54; Mr Laurence Whistler, glass engraver, 87; Mr Norman Willis, former General Secretary, TUC, 66.

## Lecture

**The London Institute**
Mr Ian Breakwell, contemporary artist, writer and filmmaker will discuss his work at the Cochrane Theatre, WC1, on Monday, January 25, at 7.00pm. For complimentary tickets call the Box Office on 0171 242 7040.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, Confederate general in the American Civil War, Clarksburg, Virginia, 1824; P. Morton Shand, architectural critic and translator of Gropius's The New Architecture and the Bauhaus, Kensington, 1888; Christian Dior, fashion designer, Granville, Normandy, 1905.

DEATHS: Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, poet and courtier, executed, London, 1547; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl of Shaftesbury, statesman, Amsterdam, 1683; Louis XVI, King of France, reigned 1774-93, executed, Paris, 1793; John Moore, physician and writer, London, 1802; Ludwig Achim von Arnim, poet, Dahme, Germany, 1831; Henry Hallam, historian, London, 1859; Alexander Herzen, socialist, Paris, 1870; Franz Grillparzer, dramatist, Vienna, 1872; John Couch Adams, astronomer, Cambridge, 1892; Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), Russian revolutionary, Gorky, 1924; Lytton Strachey, writer, Hungerford, Berkshire, 1932; George Moore, novelist, London, 1933; George Orwell (Eric Blair), novelist, London, 1950; Cecil B. de Mille, film producer, Hollywood, 1959.

Taxi cabs were officially recognised in Britain, 1907.

The first Monte Carlo car rally began, 1911.

*USS Nautilus*, the first nuclear powered submarine was launched, 1954.

Concorde made its inaugural flight to Bahrain, 1976.



SUZANNE HUBBARD

A tiger in the safety of London Zoo yesterday where Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, and Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Officer Minister, launched a campaign to stop the illegal trade in tiger parts which has cut their population in the wild to less than 5,000, compared to 100,000 a century ago. The campaign, organised by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, aims to stop tiger poaching and to reduce the use of tiger parts in traditional Chinese medicine. Mr Meacher said: "The lights are flashing red in terms of the survival of the tiger. They face a very real and potent threat from poachers who kill them to supply an illegal international market for medicine and skin."

## Luncheons

**Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers**
Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, presented the livery's Award to Industry to Mr Barry Widdowson, Group Managing Director of London Taxis International, for the design and manufacture of the new TX1 taxi, at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall.

**Consular Corps of London**
Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Consular Corps of London held yesterday at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel. Mr Lawrence Landau, president of the corps, was in the chair.

## Church news

**Appointments**
The Rev Gillian Reeves, Assistant Curate, Caterham St Mary the Virgin, St Laurence, St Paul (Southwark): to be Team Vicar, Whyteleafe St Luke (same diocese).

The Rev Tony Roake, Vicar, Bournemouth St Andrew Bennett Road (Winchester): to be Vicar, Fernhurst (Chichester).

The Rev Keith Robinson, Priest-in-charge, Laverstock (Salisbury): to be also Rural Dean of Salisbury (same diocese).

The Rev Wendy Saunders, Assistant Curate, Thamesmead Team (Southwark): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Eltham St Saviour (same diocese).

The Rev Wayne Stillwell, Curate, Necton, Holme Hale w. North and South Pickenham (Norwich): to be Curate, Eastbourne Holy Trinity (Chichester).

The Rev Dr Jean Wadsworth, Priest-in-Charge, New Eltham all Saints (Southwark): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev David Williams, Priest-in-Charge, Rochford St Andrew, and Rural Dean of Rochford (Chelmsford): to be also Non-Residentiary Canon, Chelmsford Cathedral (same diocese).

# Memorial services

**The Earl of Meath**
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Earl of Meath was held yesterday in Christ Church, Bray, County Wicklow. The Rev Baden Stanley, rector, officiated.

Major Sir Richard Keane, Mr Philip Wingfield and Mr Brian Studdert read the lessons. The Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland pronounced the blessing. The choirs of St Columba's College and Christchurch sang during the service.

Members of the family, friends and representatives of Coombe Hospital, Dublin, the Hospital Saturday Fund, SSAFA and Forces Help and the Royal British Legion were among those present.

**Sir William Mather**
The Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside were present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Loris Mather, a former Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire and industrialist, held yesterday at St Peter's, Prestbury, Cheshire. The Rev William Mather, son, officiated, assisted by Canon David Ashworth.

Mr Thomas Mather and Mr Justin Murray, grandsons, read the lessons. Mr Peter Mather, son, read from John Bunyan's *Pilgrims Progress* and Mr John Pattinson, grandson, read *If* by Rudyard Kipling. Mr Simon Murray, son-in-law, and Mr Geoffrey Sparrow gave addresses.

**Mr Frank Gillard**
A service of thanksgiving for the life and achievements of Mr Frank Gillard, broadcaster, was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly.

The Rev Ernest Rea, Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC, officiated, assisted by the Rev Mary Robins, Priest-in-Charge, St James's, and Prebendary Terry Stokes, Team Rector of the Wellington and District Team Ministry, Somerset.

Sir John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, read the lesson, Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the Board of Governors, read from Thomas Hardy's *The Darkling Thrush*, Mr Robin Scott read *Loveliest of Trees the Cherry Now* from the collected poems of A.E. Housman.

Mr John Arkell, Mr Mark Byford, Chief Executive of the World Service, and Mr Michael Barton paid tribute and Lord Hussey of North Bradley gave an address.

The Right Rev Colin James pronounced the blessing.

# Church of Scotland

**Appointments**
Induction
The Rev Iain Paton, to Elie linked with Kilconquhar and Colinsburgh.

Translations
The Rev Stephen J Smith, from St Rule's, Monifieth, Dundee to Clark Memorial, Largs.
The Rev James S A Cowan, from Ardgowan, Greenock to Arthurlie, Barrhead.

Ordination and Introduction
The Rev Jennifer MacRae, to Netherlee as Assistant Minister.
The Rev David Carruthers, to Ardrishaig linked with South Knapdale.
The Rev Helen Christie, to Haggs.

Demissions
The Rev Norman Drummond, from Kilmuir and Stenscholl.
The Rev Peter Robertson, from Dallas linked with Rafford.

Retirements
The Rev Alastair F McCormick, from Creich linked with Rosehall.
The Rev Stanley Hill, from Muiravonside.

## Dinners

**United Wards' Club**
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and Mrs B. Harris, was a speaker at the anniversary dinner of the United Wards' Club of the City of London held last night at the Mansion House. Miss Sylvia Tutt, president, was in the chair. Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden and Judge Michael Hyam, Recorder of London, also spoke.

**Shipwrights' Company**
The Earl of Inchcape, Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, presented the Queen's Silver, the Company's Bronze and the Derek Kimber Medals for the Shipyard Apprentices of 1998 to Mr Warren Porter of AMEC Process & Energy, Wallsend, Mr Gary Simpson of Devonport Management, and Mr David Parton of Marconi Marine (VSEL), Barrow-in-Furness, at a ceremony held yesterday at Ironmongers' Hall.

Afterwards, Lord Inchcape presided at the election dinner. Mr Stanley Martin was the principal guest and speaker. Among those present were:

The Ambassador of Finland, the Master of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, the Deacon of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow, the First Sea Lord and the President of the Chamber of Shipping.

**Lord Henley**
Lord Henley was the host at a dinner of the Durham University Society held last night at the House of Lords. Sir Kenneth Calman the new Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, and Lady Calman were the principal guests.

**MCC**
The President of Marylebone Cricket Club was in the Chair at a Club Dinner held at Lord's last night. Dr Eric Midwinter proposed the toast to "Cricket", and the President responded.

## Latest wills

Lord Riverdale, of Grindleford, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £122,922 net.
Lady (Joseph) Thompson, of Chilton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £424,499 net. She left £200 to the Royal British Legion.

# Forthcoming marriages

**Mr R.J.R. Broadbent and Dr S.E. Cockayne**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Captain and Mrs P.R. Broadbent, of Warnford, Hampshire, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs E.E. Cockayne, of Woolpit, Suffolk.

**Dr H.C.E. Buyck and Dr C.R. Lawson**
The engagement is announced between Hubertus, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ed Buyck, of New Plymouth, New Zealand, and Catherine, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Eric Lawson, of Cambridge.

**Mr P.D.G. Chard and Miss S.L. Llewellyn-Thomas**
The engagement is announced between Peregrine, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Chard, of Woodside Park, London, and Sarah Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Denys Thomas, of Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

**Mr J.H.W. Coghill and Miss A.M. Shaw**
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr Roger Coghill and Mrs Pamela Coghill, of Stoke Newington, London, and Amanda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James F. Shaw, of Prestbury, Cheltenham.

**Mr C. Geldard and Miss J.E. Rosner**
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Anne and Peter Geldard, and Julie, daughter of Sue and Tony Rosner.

**Mr J.W. Gibson and Miss J.C. Griffin**
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Gibson, of Sudbrooke, Lincolnshire, and Jessica, only daughter of Professor James Griffin and the late Mrs Catherine Griffin, of Oxford.

**Mr S.T. Harley and Miss S.A. O'Driscoll**
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs S.T. Harley, of Saltash, Cornwall, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P.B. O'Driscoll, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

**Dr R.J.K. Khan and Dr J.C. Miles**
The engagement is announced between Riaz, elder son of Dr and Mrs R.A. Khan, of Sonning, Berkshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Miles, of Fawley, Hampshire.

**Mr L.D. Harvey Wood and Miss C.E. Haydu-Jones**
The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Harvey Wood, of Miserden, Gloucestershire, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Haydu-Jones, of Painswick, Gloucestershire.

**Mr M.C. Miller and Miss I. Lowell**
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Miller, of Arundel, West Sussex, and Ivana, daughter of the late Israel Citkowitz and the late Lady Caroline Blackwood.

**Mr A. Nahmany and Miss V. Apfel**
The engagement is announced between Alain, son of M and Mme David Nahmany, of Marseilles, France, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Apfel, of Cleveleys, Lancashire.

**Mr J.P. O'Hara and Miss C.J. Plowman**
The engagement is announced between James Patrick, eldest son of Mr James O'Hara and Mrs Renee O'Hara, both of London, and Caroline Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gary Plowman, of Hong Kong.

**Mr J.M.C. Smith and Miss S.J.O. Whitford**
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Smith, of Esher, Surrey, and Sophie, daughter of Mr Raymond Whitford, of Swindon, Wiltshire, and Mrs Jacqueline Whitford, of Lewes, Sussex.

**Mr J.N.M. Stoughton and Miss Z. Milton Brown**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Stoughton, of Chelsea, London, and Zoe, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Milton Brown, of Ilston, West Glamorgan.

## Marriage

**Mr M.F. Hinton and Miss S.D. Haffner**
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 16, 1999, in Manhattan, New York City, between Mr Martin Hinton, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Hinton, of Hampstead, London, and Miss Stephanie Haffner, daughter of Mr Craig Haffner and Ms Robin Haffner, of Los Angeles, California.

# Forces appointments

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**
Air Commodore P Liddell to be Air Officer Communications, Information Systems and Support Services, Headquarters Logistics Command in the rank of air vice-marshal on January 22 in succession to Air Vice-Marshal B C McCandless.

**Air Commodore**
P Whalley, HQ STC, 4.1.99; N D A Maddox, HQ 11/18 GP, 8.1.99; P B Walker, MOD, 15.1.99; A E Neal, RAF PMA, 18.1.99; A D Sweetman, JSCSC Bracknell, 18.1.99.

**Group Captain**
W S Rooms, MOD (PE), 4.1.99; K L Sherit, RCDS 99, 6.1.99; K J Pellatt, RCDS 99, 6.1.99, P J Hilling, RCDS 99, 6.1.99; D N Case, RCDS 99, 6.1.99; K J Leeson, RCDS 99, 6.1.99; P Whalley, RCDS 99, 6.1.99; D C Vass, RCDS 99, 6.1.99; D N Case, RAF Presentation Team, 8.1.99; D H Milne-Smith, HQ Aircent, 8.1.99; C B Montagu, HQ STC, 11.1.99; A F P Dezonie, RAF Wittering, 18.1.99; P W D Ruddock, RAF Coningsby, 19.1.99; N W Cromarty, HQ STC, 22.1.99.

**Wing Commander**
G J Goodman, Shape Int Staff, 30.11.99; C Gould, HQLC Brampton, 4.1.99; S Holder, HQLC Wyton, 4.1.99; C W Hamilton, Cranwell, 4.1.99; M F Nethaway, RAF Cranwell, 4.1.99; C Simpson, HQ PTC, 11.1.99; R F Burdett, Cranwell, 15.1.99; M J Milburn, Brize Norton, 18.1.99; S J Harsley, HQLC HRR ILS Team ABW, 18.1.99.

**RETIREMENTS**
**Group Captain**
R W Henry, 13.1.99; P A Bedford, 17.1.99; M A Norris, 17.1.99.

## Gray's Inn

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn: Mr Brian John Barker, QC, Mr Peter William Birts, QC, Mr Terence Michael Elkan Barnet Etherton, QC, and Mr Colin Reese, QC.

The following have been elected Honorary Masters of the Bench: Mr Henry Litton, Chief Justice Matthew Ngulube, Judge Stephen Schwebel, Professor Dr Guido Alpa, Professor Dr Jutta Limbach, the Hon Mrs Lavinia Wallop and Sir Frederick Girvan.

# PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God, when his body was put to death and his spirit was made alive. 1 Peter 3.18 (CEV).

## BIRTHS

AMBERY - On 6th January, a daughter, Charlotte Louise to Fiona (née Barber) and Richard.

DAVID - On 20th January 1999 to Sarah (née Sheldon) and Nigel of Woburn, a daughter Olivia Tess Sheldon, a sister for Harry William Sheldon.

HAMBRO - On January 17th at The Portland Hospital to Hattie (née Ward Jones) and Alex, a son, brother for Ben and Jemima.

JACQUOTTET - On 7th January in Reunion, to Laura (née Mainwaring) and Bruno, a son, Christen John.

JOHN - On December 30th 1998 at The Royal Free Hospital, to Natalie and Nicholas, a daughter Emily Gwyneth, a sister for Elizabeth.

KELLY/BENNETT-JENKINS - On 28th December 1998 to Sallie and Brendan, twins sons, James Alfred Bennett and Connor Edward Bennett, brothers for Tom, Will and Isobel.

PRINZ - On January 17th at The Portland Hospital to Beth and Sascha, a daughter, Morgan, a sister for Tristan Alexander.

REYNOLDS - On 18th January 1999, in Nairobi, to Cindy (née Meyer) and Freddie, a son, Charles William Adrian, a brother for Molly.

SHAPIRO - On 18th January in Stockholm to Anna and Tony, a daughter, Maja.

SMART - On January 11th 1999 to Kathryn (née Scott) and Andrew, a beautiful daughter, Rebecca Elin, a sister for James.

STINSON - On 15th January 1999, to Meriel (née Thorne) and Philip, a son, Thomas Francis Hunter.

WARD - On 9th January 1999, to Caroline (née Osborne) and Stephen, a son, Richard Stephen.

WRIGLEY - On January 15th 1999 to Claire and Mark, a son, Benjamin Christopher Tremayne, a brother for Isobel and Hugh.

YAKOVENKO - On January 8th at The Portland Hospital to Claudia Hengge and Alexander Yakovenko, a son, Christian.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

JESSOP:COLSON - Charles and Mary on January 21st 1939 at St. Mary's, Barrow, Somerset.

MATHEWS:WILLCOX - On January 21st 1939 at St Mary's Church, Finchley London N3, George Walter to Betty. Still in the Hampstead Garden Suburb.

## DEATHS

BLAKE - Mary June Herron peacefully on 19th January 1999 at Amesbury Abbey aged 90. Darling mother of "Muff" (Victoria) and devoted grandmother to Lucy and Katherine. Funeral Service, Salisbury Crematorium at 11.40 am on Thursday 28th January 1999. Family flowers only. Funeral Directors Gerald W Burden 01980 623262.

BOYD - Ann (née Hopkin), on 14th January 1999 in Exeter; beloved wife of Robin, beloved friend of many. Cremation. No flowers, but donations, if desired, direct to any heart or cancer charity.

BRADISH - Dr Claude. Formerly of Pitton Salisbury. Died 19th January 1999. Adored husband of Diana for 53 years. Loving father of Nicholas (deceased) and Christopher, father-in-law of Hazel and caring grandfather of Richard, Thomas and Nicholas. Donations in his memory to Leukaemia Research Fund would be appreciated, c/o Thos Furber & Co Ltd, 122 Station Road, Birmingham B17 9LS. 0121 427 2233.

CARNEGY-POTTS - Mary Rosalind (Betty) peacefully at Oakcroft House, West Byfleet, aged 93 on January 18th 1999, wife of the late Alec and much loved mother of Carolina. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service on Friday 29th January at 12 noon, at St Mary's Church, Oatlands, Weybridge. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, c/o F.W. Chitty & Co, 45 Elmgrove Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8PB. 01932 842220.

COTTER - On January 18th 1999, Mary, aged 93 years, widow of Pat Cotter, killed in action 1943, mother of Helen and Claudia, formerly of South Runcton, Norfolk. Cremation at Kings Lynn on Friday 29th January at 4.45pm. Memorial Service at South Runcton at 11.00am on Saturday 30th January. No flowers, but donations if desired to The Star and Garter Homes, may be sent to A J Coggles, Funeral Directors, 69 Bridge Street, Downham Market. Tel 01366 384182.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DUNCAN - Mary Jane, on 19th January at the Royal Marsden Hospital after a short illness bravely fought. Wife of Andrew, Mother and great friend of Angus and Sarah, Grandmother of James, Susannah and Isabel. Very much loved by all her family. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Columba's, Pont Street on Monday 1st February at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations, if wished, to The Royal Marsden Hospital Trust.

GARNETT - Zibby (née Elizabeth Pamela Stock) aged 54. Beloved wife of David. Slipped quietly away at home on 16th January, her friends at her bedside. Funeral at 12 noon on Tuesday 26th January in Southwell Minster followed by burial at Norwell. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief (Newark branch) may be sent c/o DJ Hall Funeral Directors, 60a King Street, Southwell, Notts NG24 0EN.

HALSTEAD - Christopher John MA PhD (Cantab), aged 58, (retired Shell), passed peacefully away on Tuesday 12th January at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading after an illness borne with courage and dignity. Dearly loved husband of Susan, loving father of Nicholas and Stephen, father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral Service to take place at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Thursday 28th January. Family flowers only, donations to The National Asthma Campaign (Childhood Project). All enquiries to J B Hall Funeral Directors, Wokingham. Tel: 0118 9793623.

HARRISON - Frank Vernon, Capt R.N., died on Monday 18th January 1999 in Aberystwyth Hospital, aged 87. Beloved husband of Mararet and much missed by all his family. Funeral to be held at 11.15am, Saturday, 23rd January at Aberystwyth Crematorium. Enquiries to Daniell Funeral Directors (01970 612339). Thanksgiving Service in London to be announced later.

HARVARD DAVIS - Robert, who passed away on Saturday 16th January 1999 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Funeral on Monday, January 25th 1999, at Llandaff Cathedral at 2.00pm, followed by burial at Ewenny Priory. No flowers by request please. All enquiries to James Summers, Funeral Directors, 01222 484506.

HUMPHREYS - Honor, daughter of Arthur Stanley Byng, 10th Viscount Torrington, died peacefully at her home on 17th January, aged 86. Funeral Service to be held at Christchurch, (off Flood Street) Chelsea at 11 am on Wednesday 27th January. Family flowers only.

KARLIN - On 19th January 1999, suddenly, Marc, aged 51. Most beloved husband of Hermione and adored father of Alexis and Anna. Family funeral. A celebration in his memory will be held later.

KNOX - Angel Stuart, aged 78. Retired physiotherapist. Suddenly on 18th January 1999 after a short illness in the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Youngest daughter of the late Sir Hamish and Ursula Knox, much loved sister, aunt and great-aunt. Service at Bath Abbey on Tuesday 26th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. Enquiries to G. Mannings & Sons, Oxford House, North Road, Combe Down, Bath (01225 837966).

MANGIN - Terette Vivian peacefully on 18th January 1999. Sister of Rosemary, Pat and Paul. Funeral at St John the Baptist Church, Burley on Wednesday 27th January 1999 at 2:30 pm. Family flowers only please but donations for Burley Milestone Fund can be given at the Church or sent to W. Smith & Sons Funeral Directors, 3A Runnymead Parade, Ringwood Road, Bransgore, Christchurch, BH23 8NL.

MOSS - Douglas Roy, peacefully on 19th January 1999 on Guernsey, beloved husband of Pat, dear father of Simone and Dominique, father-in-law of Trevor and Karl and darling "PopPops" of Aaron, Celine and Nanci. One time chairman and Managing Director of Bijou Dress Company, London. Funeral Service to be held on Guernsey on 22nd January at 10.45am. Please contact Beckford's Funeral Services Ltd, telephone 01481 64202 for further details.

MOYNE - On 19th January at Biddenden, Elisabeth, Lady Moyne, widow of Bryan Guinness, Lord Moyne. Funeral 1pm on Monday 25th January at St James's Church, Ludgershall. Family flowers only. Any donations to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice c/o Dunning Funeral Services, 2 Church Close, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1DP.

OWENS - On January 14th, peacefully, after a long illness, bravely borne, Lilian Mary Owens (née Fletcher), dear sister of Wendy. Cremation 11.00am, Tuesday, January 26th at West Chapel, Golders Green. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to Crossroads, Dilke House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7JN.

PAGE - Pauline died 19th January in her sleep at Northwick Park Hospital. Wife of Lawrence, mother of Judith, Ruth, Joanne and Mark and grandmother of Ben and Alex. Funeral on 28th January at 12 noon at St James' Church, Bushey. Family flowers only, donations if desired: to Breakthrough Breast Cancer, in memory of Pauline Page, PO Box 7012, London E1 8AZ.

PARKINSON - Dr. Fred, 1922 to 1999, formerly of University College London, dear husband of Kit, died January 10th. Cremation at Mortlake on January 22nd at 11.30am. Donations to British Heart Foundation.

PECK - Frances Eleanor MBE, peacefully 14th January at Westwood Hall Nursing Home, Wirral aged 98 years. Former Secretary of The Liverpool Personal Service Society. Funeral Service at Landican Crematorium, Wirral at 11.00am on Wednesday 27th January. No flowers or letters by request. Donations if desired to Age Concern, c/o Charles Stephens, Clifton House Funeral Home, 215 Bebington Road, Rock Ferry, Wirral L42 4QA. 0151 645 4396.

POOLE - On January 15th 1999, peacefully, Violet Alice Rosalind, aged 89 years. Beloved mother of Serena and the late Scilla Raikes and grandmother of Simon and Vanessa Raikes. Funeral Service at St Leonard's Church, Farleigh Hungerford, near Bath on Thursday 28th January 1999 at 11.00am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to the RSPB may be sent to Jolly's Funeral Directors, 7 Windsor Place, Bath BA1 3DF.

POWELL - F P (Pen), West Malling, Kent died 19th January 1999 after a very short illness aged 87. Greatly loved and missed by family and friends.

ROBERTSON - Donald Keith. Aged 91 formerly of Lichfield Diocese. Died peacefully on January 18th after a long illness borne with bravery and humour. Beloved husband of Lena, much loved father and grandfather. Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral at Wells Cathedral on January 28th at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations to The Alzheimers Disease Society, c/o Mr Harold F Miles, Funeral Director, South Cadbury, BA22 7ES. Telephone 01963 440387.

ROSENHEAD - On 17th January 1999, Martin David, aged 63, died peacefully after a short illness. Devoted and beloved husband of Lindsay, proud and loved father of Annabel and loving and dear son of Esther. He will be greatly missed by all his friends and family. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium, Kew Meadow Path, Townmead Road, Richmond, TW9 4EN, 11.30am, Wednesday 27th January. Family flowers only. Any donations in Martin's memory to Macmillan Cancer Relief, 15-19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ.

ROSS - Lt. Cdr Simon Alistair Gordon Ross R.N. (ret'd), aged 38, after a tragic accident on his boat. Beloved son and brother. Funeral on Tuesday 26th January, at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Place, Windsor at 2.15pm and afterwards at Slough Crematorium. A Memorial Service will be held at Portsmouth, date to be announced. Flowers to F. Harrison and Sons, 40 Harvest Road, Englefield Green, Surrey. Or donations to R.N.L.I.

SCOTT-SIMPSON - John Michael, devoted son of Jean, died peacefully on 15th January 1999. Funeral Service to take place on Thursday 28th January 1999 at West Norwood Crematorium at 3.30pm. All friends welcome. No flowers please, but donations to The British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JB would be appreciated.

STEVENS - Edwin F., retired Major and Lecturer, he died peacefully in Kingston Hospital on Saturday January 16th 1999, aged 86 years. Dearly beloved husband of Rose and father of Barbara and Paul. Funeral at Randalls Park, Leatherhead on Tuesday, January 26th at 4.30pm. Donations, if desired, to The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys 31 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AG.

VANGER - Yvonne Vanger (née Costello) on January 17th at the Hospital Lariboisiere in Paris. Loved widow of Lawrence Vanger and mother of Jonathon, Gregory and Anthony. Requiem Mass at 10.30am on Monday 25th January at The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Street, London W1. Flowers to Fredk W. Paine, 31 Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NR.

WELLS - Dr. George Creighton FRCP at Sibton on Saturday 16th January 1999 and his wife Margaret (née Bruce) on 4th December 1998.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

WILLES - Thomas Vincent Windham. A Service in memory of Tom will be held at St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham at 2.00pm on Friday February 5th. Any enquiries to H Merrett Funeral Directors Tel: 01249 713134.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICES

TEMPLE-RICHARDS - Leo's Thanksgiving Service St Andrews Church, Great Ryburgh, Fakenham, Norfolk on Saturday February 6th at 2pm. No flowers. If wished, donations for Fakenham Surgery.

## BIRTHDAYS

O'HARA Angela. Happy 60th birthday. To Michael also, welcome to the big 60! The most wonderful parents, thanks for all the brilliant years, lots and lots of love, your loving daughter Grainne.


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# DENNIS VAN THAL

**Dennis van Thal, theatrical agent and co-founder of the London Management agency, died at the actors' retirement home, Denville Hall, on January 12 aged 89. He was born on June 4, 1909.**

THE career of Dennis van Thal in the world of the stage and of the cinema was one of the longest and most influential of recent times. For nearly 50 years his name — first as a casting director, then as a producer and finally as a theatrical agent — was in itself almost a guarantee of quality. He had the allegiance of some of the biggest stars in the business, not just as clients but as close friends.

Those meeting him for the first time were often slightly intimidated by his unassuming and casual conversational references to figures such as Sir Michael Balcon, Sir Alec Guinness, Franco Zeffirelli, Dirk Bogarde, Roger Moore and Fred Zinnemann — all perhaps in the same sentence. Yet, far from being a name-dropper, van Thal was just recounting memories from his working life — and invariably praising his colleagues' talents with the huge enthusiasm that was his trademark.

Dennis van Thal was born in London of Dutch parents. His first love was music, and from an early age he not only played the piano but arranged music and composed songs. After graduating from University College London, he sought work in the theatre. A chance meeting with the legendary impresario André Charlot led to his being engaged as an arranger and later a musical director for many of the Charlot revues of the 1920s. It was during this period of the Bright Young Things that he met and became friends with such toasts of the town as Noël Coward and Beatrice Lillie.

When, public taste in the theatre changed, partly as a result of the Depression, van Thal found himself drawn to the then flourishing British cinema industry. So distinguished was his theatrical record that he landed the



plum job of casting director at Denham Studios, for that flamboyant and larger-than-life Hungarian Sir Alexander Korda.

During his time working for Korda's London Films,he played his part in making some classic British movies. Among those for which he did the casting were *The Four Feathers* (1939), *The Thief of Baghdad* (1940), *The Fallen Idol* (1948) and *The Third Man* (1949). As well as being acutely sensitive to public taste, he had a keen eye for up-and-coming talent, and claimed to have discovered both Jean Simmons and Stephen Boyd.

During the Second World War he served in the Navy, afterwards returning to Denham. In 1957 he changed his role from casting director to producer, and was invited by Sir Michael Balcon to join him at Ealing Studios to work forBryanston Films. The heyday of the glorious Ealing comedies was over, but Bryanston still managed to turn out what were termed "peculiarly English films" — the best example being the intensely patriotic *Dunkirk* (1958). During this period van Thal came into contact with cameramen such as Freddie Young and Ossie Morris, both of whom he was later to represent.

In 1959 he met the young casting director for MGM British, a woman named Jean Diamond. With his long experience in films, van Thal decided to establish a theatrical agency. They formed a partnership and their offices in Upper Brook Street opened for business — with a fine sense of humour — on April 1, 1959. There was no peeling paint on the walls and no dusty staircase to climb; even the address was a far cry from the run of theatrical agents' dingy offices in Charing Cross Road and St Martin's Lane.

The name London Management became synonymous with talent among performers, directors and designers. Its actors included Roger Moore and Terry Thomas, to say nothing of three theatrical knights — Sir Dirk Bogarde, Sir Alec Guinness and Sir Robert Helpmann. From the world of film direction came such renowned clients as Fred Zinnemann, Franco Zeffirelli and Michael Powell, and the roll-call of designers included Julia Trevelyan Oman, Hildegarde Beckler and Tom Rand.

Part of van Thal's success lay in his underlying modesty and genuine concern for his clients. He was a naturally astute businessman, and as Ossie Morris once remarked: "People like me didn't understand contracts and finance — we just let Dennis sort it out." Van Thal continued working at his agency's Mayfair offices until his 80th birthday, a celebration marked quietly with colleagues in the office. He never courted the limelight, but his name nevertheless carried enormous weight throughout showbusiness.

Last year van Thal moved into Denville Hall, the Actors Benevolent Fund's retirement home in Northwood, Middlesex, where he died. He married Mary Shoppee in 1940. She predeceased him.

# KATHLEEN BASFORD

**Kathleen Basford, author of *The Green Man*, died on December 20 aged 82. She was born on September 6, 1916.**

KATHLEEN BASFORD was the woman responsible for a resurgence of interest in the Green Man, the medieval face enmeshed in leaves which stares down from hundreds of churches across Europe. Her exhaustive research in the 1960s and 1970s culminated in her authoritative book *The Green Man* (1978), which in turn has led to new interpretations by artists in many media, including, perhaps most notably John Piper's paintings.

The Green Man is probably the most common motif in sculpture of the Middle Ages, occurring on bosses, capitals, misericords and elsewhere in half of the medieval churches in England. Yet no one knows for sure what he signifies.

Basford wrote that she "could not begin to evaluate" the significance of the details, and instead urged people to "go and look respectfully and very carefully at examples individually and to beware of projecting interpretations."

The author of a more recent study praises her work as "impeccably researched and without any of the wilder references to crop circles, ley lines or 'Celtic' subjects whom many have tried to link to the Green Man". But she did have her own interpretation, influenced by modern scientific and ecological fears: that the Green Man symbolises the unity of man and nature, and saw him as a warning "that without leaves — a cover of vegetation over the face of the earth — there will be nothing but drought, famine, death and ruin."

Born in Grantham, into a family with roots in farming in the Fens, Kathleen North was taught about the rich Lincolnshire plant life by a devoted nursemaid, and knew by the age of six that this would be a lifelong passion.

She went to school at Harrogate College, where biology was not taught but there was the compensation of a good education in art. She then studied botanical drawing at Nottingham Art School. She



spent a great deal of time in the arboretum next door, where she met the young chemistry graduate, Freddie Basford, whom she married.

In that same year, 1937, they moved to Manchester, where she took evening classes in genetics at the university. Initially she hated industrial Manchester, but her outlook was transformed when she visited an exhibition of paintings by L. S. Lowry. Wisely enough, she bought a painting and a drawing.



Meanwhile she was conducting experiments at home on the hybridising of different fuchsia species, on which she published a paper in 1952. This led to an offer of work from the Professor of Botany at Manchester University and in 1955 her work was shown at the Royal Horticultural Society, winning the Linley Award Gold Medal.

She took part for a few months in a programme of exploratory research high in the Andes in Peru aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of maize production, and continued her botanical research at Manchester University until 1961. She then moved to the cytology department of the Christie Hospital in Manchester until 1971.

It was on an outing to the austere ruins of Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire that Basford spotted the Green Man carved into the keystone on one of the windows of the chapel of the nine altars. This provoked her to ask innumerable questions, and to devote her spare time over several years to answering them. She travelled around Britain and continental Europe, examining countless leaf masks and foliate heads, tracking down historical data, digging deep into ancient religious beliefs, tracing the origins and developments of the Green Man as far afield as Istanbul.

She presented a paper to the Folklore Society at Lancaster University in 1973, and was then invited to expand it into a book. As well as delving into folklore and art and architectural history, she became an expert photographer, processing her own negatives at home. *The Green Man*, the first monograph on the subject in any language, is illustrated with a hundred of her own photographs. (It was reissued in paperback last year.)

In it, Basford traces the imp's descent from wood gods and Roman art of the 1st century, making the transition from pagan to Christian art at Trier cathedral in the 6th century. Because he typically wears a grim expression and hides in the undergrowth — seemingly with malevolent intent — she rejected the idea that the Green Man represents the spirit of natural renewal, and speculated instead that he is a demon, perhaps even the devil himself. And yet, "in following his trail, we come to some of the most beautiful places on earth — the churches and cathedrals of the Middle Ages. It is, indeed, a very strange demon that can lead us to such heavenly vistas."

Kathleen Basford went on to take up crochet, experimenting boldly with colours. She helped to evolve the international diploma in crochet, and wrote *The Appeal of Crochet* (with Pauline Turner).

Her own and her husband's ill-health curtailed her activities in later life, but as recently as last May she took part in a BBC radio programme on the Green Man. She is survived by her daughter and two sons.

# PROFESSOR QIAN ZHONGSHU

**Professor Qian Zhongshu (Ch'ien Chun-shu), Chinese writer and scholar, died on December 19 aged 88. He was born on November 10, 1910.**

QIAN ZHONGSHU was one of the most important Chinese writers and critics of the century. Having spent time at Oxford in the 1930s, he had a remarkable knowledge of English literature, and he was noted for the purity of style in his essays, and for a satirical novel.

Born in Wuxi, in the Jiangsu Province of China, Qian was a boy wonder, noted for his photographic memory, a keen critical appreciation for the arts and letters, and for his application. He was also blessed with a scholarly family background. His father, Qian Jibo (1887-1957), was a well-known literary historian and university professor.

At school he excelled in English but did poorly in mathematics. He went on to study English language and literature at the National Tsinghua University where he met Yang Jiang, and they married in 1935.

After graduating from Tsinghua in 1933, Qian taught English at the Guang Hua University in Shanghai. In 1935, he was awarded a Boxer Indemnity Scholarship and went to Exeter College, Oxford, again reading English literature. According to his friends and contemporaries at Oxford, Qian read more thrillers and detective stories than was healthy for a student devoted to serious literary research, and as a result he failed the preliminary examination in English palaeography and had to sit for it a second time. He did, however, develop an interest in a range of Western philosophers and writers including Hegel and Proust, about whom he later wrote. He received his Oxford BLitt in 1937 with a thesis on China in 17th and 18th-century English literature. The Queen quoted passages from it in a speech on her state visit to China in 1986.

Back in China, Qian taught at various universities, and worked as an editor on journals including *The China Critic*, *Tsinghua Weekly*, and the *Quarterly Bulletin of Chinese Bibliography*. A collection of his essays entitled *Marginalia of Life* was published in Shanghai in 1941, followed by an anthology of short stories *Men, Beasts and Ghosts* (1946), but his best known writings of this period were the novel *Fortress Besieged* (1947) and his critical essays *On the Art of Poetry* (1948).



His essays were written in an elegant classical (wenyan) style, which has won accolades from scholars worldwide. It contains many references to Western poetics, from Plato to the Abbé Bremond, and a critical evaluation of Chinese poets.

*Fortress Besieged*, on the other hand, is a comedy of manners, centring on the journey from hope through frustration to defeat of a failed student returning to China from Europe after buying a degree certificate from America by post and being offered an appointment at a newly established university. It showed Qian to be a formidable satirist, daring to comment on contemporary Chinese society through his commentary on the Chinese pseudo-intellectuals, on courtship and marriage, and on the effect of war on daily life. It was translated into Czech, French, German, Japanese and Russian as well as English. It was also later televised.

Moving to Beijing, Qian and his wife became research fellows in the Institute of Foreign Literature of the Academia Sinica. He later transferred to the Institute of Chinese Literature, and when the Academy of Social Sciences was founded in 1952 he became senior fellow in its Institute of Literature.

In 1958 he published the *Annotated Selection of Song Poetry*, a widely acclaimed anthology of poetry from the Song Dynasty. He later headed a team of scholars responsible for the writing of the Tang and Song sections of a history of Chinese literature.

During Mao's Cultural Revolution, Qian and his wife were both sent to labour camps. Their experiences were later described in Yang Jiang's *Six Chapters from My Life "Downunder"*, published in 1981 (and in English in 1984). After Mao's death in 1976, Qian was rehabilitated and visited the United States, Italy and Japan. In 1979 he published a book containing four studies of Chinese painting, Chinese poetry and the art of translation.

That year also saw his most significant work, *On Ideas and Concepts*, a monumental work of classical and comparative philology in four volumes, covering a vast territory and written with an assured grasp of the Western classics of philosophy, literature and literary criticism. This work was written in a style even more elegant and archaic than that of *On the Art of Poetry*, and people were amazed that anyone could still write in this traditional way. (An English translation of 65 chapters was published by Harvard last year under the title *Limited Views: Essays on Ideas and Letters*.)

Thereafter Qian published only a few essays in journals and newspapers, but he became the subject of intense scholarly and popular attention. Nevertheless, he kept a low public profile and was the least photographed modern Chinese writer and scholar. He did, however, become the vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 1982, and was elected a nonpartisan member of the standing committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in 1987.

He suffered a prolonged illness before his death, and had been in hospital for four years. When he died, the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, made a personal phone call to his widow, Professor Yang Jiang (Yang Chiang), and his death has been marked at universities in both China and America.

# SIR JAMES WHITAKER, Bt

**Sir James Whitaker, OBE, 3rd Baronet, former vice-chairman of the Halifax Building Society, died at his Nottinghamshire home on January 13 aged 73. He was born on July 27, 1925.**

JAMES WHITAKER was a fortunate man and the very first to admit it. He inherited at the age of 32 a baronetcy, two substantial properties, one in Nottinghamshire and the other in Perthshire, and he was quietly determined to give back to the world in which he grew up something more than he had been given.

James Herbert Ingham Whitaker was the eldest of the three sons of Major-General Sir John Whitaker. Educated at Eton, he joined the Coldsteam Guards in 1944, served in North-West Europe and subsequently became ADC in Cairo to General Sir Charles Allfrey. There he met and in 1948 married Marybeth Clark, the widow of a fellow Army officer, and thus began a partnership of shared interests which lasted fifty years and ended only with her death last Christmas Day.

Demobilised in 1947, Whitaker returned to Nottinghamshire and to learning about farming. He did so very productively. When his father died in 1957, the estate was heavily burdened with death duties. In a relatively short period a mixture of grindingly hard work and shrewdly imaginative risk-taking enabled the debts to be cleared, and the way was then open for other activities.

In 1957 the first steps had been taken to found United World Colleges of the Atlantic, a string of international sixth-form colleges, the first of which was established at St Donats in South Wales. One of its founders, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Lawrence Darvall, was a friend of the Whitaker family and James Whitaker was invited to become a governor. He protested in a typical self-depreciating way that he knew nothing about education, little about foreigners and was not sure how much he liked young people.

But his zeal for the contribution that the college might make towards a more peaceful and better world triumphed. He became a founding governor, vice-chairman and chairman, a frequent visitor, a generous benefactor, a determined fundraiser and a valued source of wisdom and advice. In 1993, during a visit by the Queen, he and Marybeth were appointed honorary fellows of the college.

Another organisation that benefited a great deal from his efforts on its behalf was the Halifax Building Society, of which he was a director for thirty years and a vice-chairman for twenty. In particular, he familiarised himself with the work of managers and senior staff in branches throughout the country. His visits were welcome and his judgment was often valuable. At a time in the 1970s when the Halifax, with its Yorkshire headquarters, was keen to raise its profile in London he was the chief advocate and first chairman of a London advisory board. In 1969-70 he was also High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire.

Yet those who knew Whitaker will remember him not for the appointments he held but for the person he was. His circle of close friends was deliberately not large, but his loyalty to those within it was absolute. His interests were intensely personal, however varied they might seem — farming, the stock exchange, shooting, and, especially, anything that affected his friends.

He loved the continuity of the past but he was a risk-taker. There was a glint in his eye if there was a gamble in sight (at bridge his bidding was breathtakingly bold). In Elizabethan days he would have been a merchant adventurer; later he would almost certainly have been a victim of the South Sea Bubble. And if the gold that was suspected had been found beneath his beloved Perthshire estate of Auchnafree, there is no telling whether the gold or the grouse would have taken priority.

He is survived by a daughter and by his son, who becomes the 4th baronet.

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## ON THIS DAY

### January 21, 1848

*Isaac Disraeli (1766-1848) was the remarkable father of a no less remarkable son, Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), Earl of Beaconsfield, statesman and author.*

## DEATH OF MR ISAAC DISRAELI

Wherever the English language is spoken, or even made the subject of translation the name of Disraeli is honourably known. The writings of father and son have rendered both celebrated, and each, in earning distinction for himself, has added to the fame of his relative.

Isaac Disraeli died on Wednesday at the age of 83. He was born at Enfield in May, 1766. He received some instruction at a school near the place of his nativity, but, his father conceiving that his education could be more advantageously conducted in Holland, a considerable portion of his boyhood was spent in that country. Before his departure for the continent, however, he showed signs of a very precocious intellect, for he began to write verses at the age of 10 and in his 16th year addressed a poetical epistle to Dr Johnson. After passing some time at Amsterdam and Leyden, he proceeded to the French metropolis. This visit to Paris took place in 1786, when the great revolution was impending, and when its doctrines seemed to have obtained entire possession of all men's minds; but to this very general characteristic of the period Mr Disraeli proved an exception. He was then, and remained throughout his long life, a purely speculative philosopher — who never mingled in political broils, or for a single moment knew what it was to be connected with political or religious parties.

In his 24th year he published *Curiosities of Literature*. This single volume attracted attention in an age when men of genius abounded. Yet it was then merely an elegant and critical compilation, though it eventually became the origin of that celebrated miscellany in which, at a later period of his life, in successive volumes, he poured forth such a fund of original research of philosophical, entertaining speculation, expressed in so lively and agreeable a style, that the work has always remained one of the chief favourites of our literature.

He was the first author who commenced research on an extensive scale among the manuscripts of the British Museum, and it must be acknowledged that his writings diffused a taste for historical inquiry and criticism beyond the limited sphere of mere literary men. Although this kind of investigation has been of late years carried to a very great extent, yet he who gave the example should be remembered with thanks and applause; and, notwithstanding that by some of his successors it may have been pursued in a profounder spirit, yet its results never have been rendered more popular than in the writings of Mr Disraeli. In the year 1828 his attention was diverted from his history of English literature by a strong desire to publish his views respecting the all important age of Charles I. These, comprised in five volumes, he gave to the world in the course of seven years, under the title of *Commentaries on the Life and Reign of Charles I*.

He died a widower, having lost his wife, to whom he had been united for more than 40 years, in the spring of 1847. He has left one daughter and three sons, the eldest of whom is the member for Buckinghamshire.

## NEWS

### Paddy Ashdown to stand down

■ Paddy Ashdown stunned Westminster by announcing that he will stand down as Liberal Democrat leader this summer after 11 years. The move, which surprised and saddened his 45 MPs when he told them at a private meeting at the Commons, means a leadership election in the summer in which Charles Kennedy, Simon Hughes and Nick Harvey were already emerging as front-runners last night ........ Pages 1, 4, 5

### Royal Commission on Lords reform

■ Plans for a part-elected, part-nominated second House of Parliament were announced as the Government began moves to sweep away the centuries-old rights of peers. The Government published a Bill to expel 750 hereditary peers from the Lords and announced that a Royal Commission will report on a fully reformed second chamber ........ Pages 1, 10, 11

### Nato moves in

An American aircraft carrier, accompanied by two guided missile cruisers armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, were ordered to the Adriatic ........ Pages 1, 15

### Missing girls

A huge police hunt continued for two ten-year-old girls who went missing after setting out for school on Tuesday morning. A friend told police that they had talked of running away ........ Page 1

### Dog breeder guilty

A Crufts champion breeder escaped serious punishment despite being found guilty of allowing ten of her most prized dogs to die of heatstroke in a lorry ........ Page 6

### Threat to au pairs

Au pairs could be left without a job and a home as a result of their intended inclusion in regulations on the national minimum wage, it was claimed ........ Page 7

### School drugs alert

Head teachers at independent schools admitted that they had underestimated the drug problem among their pupils, especially with younger children ........ Page 8

### Fluoride in milk

Fluoride could be added to salt and milk rather than water so that consumers could choose this method of reducing tooth decay, dental experts said ........ Page 9

### Crops approval

Genetically modified crops have been given the approval of a House of Lords inquiry which says that the benefits far outweigh the risks ........ Page 13

### Berlin Wall files

The United States denied that it intends to hand over files taken from police archives after the collapse of the Berlin Wall ........ Page 14

### Clinton tax fight

President Clinton has ensured that bitter fights lie ahead by challenging Republicans to forgo tax cuts in favour of pensions and healthcare security ........ Page 16

### Political burglars

For the second time in a week, burglars have broken into the headquarters of an American polling firm working for the Israeli Labour Party ........ Page 17

### Battle memories

The 120th anniversary ceremonies tomorrow at Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift strike a plangent note both within modern South African politics and British imperial memory ........ Page 18

### Happy return

Peter Penfold, Britain's envoy to Sierra Leone, returned to Freetown to a tumultuous reception among refugees from the fighting between rebels and West African Ecomog forces ........ Page 19

### Family row over Du Pré film

■ The row over the new movie about Jacqueline du Pré intensified as her niece attacked her own parents for portraying the cellist as a sexual predator. Clare Finzi, 33, daughter of Hilary and Kiffer — whose story is told in *Hilary and Jackie* — accused her parents of grossly distorting the true picture to make more money from the film ........ Page 3

BEN GURR




Laura Paskell-Brown, a student at St Hilda's, Oxford, who has been threatened with expulsion over the fees protest, outside her college

**Greenspan warning:** Wall Street surged despite a warning from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that the market's recent performance may be hard to sustain ........ Page 27

**Sales down:** British high street sales fell sharply in December, with the City blaming retailers for raising their prices to levels unacceptable to consumers ........ Page 27

**Paper money:** George Soros, the international investor, has emerged as one of the backers for the £913 million cash bid for the Mirror Group ........ Page 27

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index rose 78.0 to 6105.6. The pound fell 1.06 cents to $1.6477 and 0.23p against the euro to 70.22p. The sterling index fell to 99.5 from 99.9 ........ Page 30

**Football:** Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa striker, raged against his club for not giving him regular first-team football ........ Page 52

**Tennis:** Tim Henman stuggled for three hours before reaching the third round of the Australian Open by beating a player ranked 240th in the world ........ Page 46

**Olympics:** Juan Antonio Samaranch, His Excellency the president of the Olympic Movement, regrets that while he feels personally wounded by the deepening Salt Lake City vote-buying imbroglio, he is not ready to fall on his expensive Samurai sword ........ Page 50

**Cricket:** Batsman Ricky Ponting is in hot water after being knocked out in a bar brawl in Sydney and has been dropped ........ Page 52

**Fame at last:** Opening the *NME* week of gigs at the Astoria celebrating "the best music of 1998", American veterans Sebadoh proved they are immune to fashion ........ Page 36

**New movies:** Out this week is *Hilary and Jackie*, Anand Tucker's controversial biopic of Jacqueline du Pré. Plus: French director Claude Miller on working with children ........ Page 37

**New on video:** Kasi Lemmon's debut feature, the sensitive and poetic *Eve's Bayou*, gives Samuel L. Jackson the chance to play an amorous, wealthy Southern doctor ........ Page 38

**Mad about theatre:** Kenneth Rea's diary charts the obstacles he met when setting up his own company. Plus *Lord of the Flies* and *Street of Crocodiles* reviewed ........ Page 39

**Dr Thomas Stuttaford:** Suntans and skin disease; ulcers; the medicinal value of plant extracts; Hitler's singular problem ........ Page 20

**Golden bow:** The film about Jacqueline du Pré has provoked a vitriolic response. But confronting the truths of her life is the only way to understand her genius ........ Page 21

**Reviews:** R.W. Johnson treks to the South African transition with F.W. de Klerk; Marcus du Sautoy fails to hear the truly beautiful music of mathematics; Nigel Hawkes learns about the Mir crisis; Robert Nye reads a pastiche ........ Pages 40-42

**Best buys:** Two-night break at the Waldorf, including tickets to Monet; Madeira for less than £300; the archaeological delights of Petra and ancient villages ........ Page 35

These are contradictory times. The President is disgraced, impeached, and his trial is under way. One might have expected a national gloom, but there is none. President Clinton stood before Congress and the nation last night in a time of unparalleled prosperity and well-being with an address that is sure to boost his already high approval ratings. The union has seldom been in a better state — ***The Boston Globe***

**Preview:** Kate Winslet in *Jude* based on the Thomas Hardy novel (BBC1, 9.30) **Review:** Joe Joseph finds *Mersey Blues* compulsive viewing ........ Pages 50, 51

### The Ashdown party

Paddy Ashdown has shaped the party of his time. And if the greatest prize, proportional representation for Westminster, eluded his grasp, that loss should not blind Liberals to the scale of their gains ........ Page 23

### Wakeham's watch

Although there is still some distance from a final outcome, what once threatened to be a dog's breakfast may now become a more appealing meal ........ Page 23

### Spare the au pair

If the Government wishes to make childcare affordable for working parents, it must exempt these young foreigners from this damaging piece of interventionist meddling ........ Page 23

### ANATOLE KALETSKY

Most of the shares hyped by today's Internet investors will be literally worthless within a few years or even perhaps months. But America's faith in compter technology will continue to be richly rewarded in the long run ........ Page 22

### MAGNUS LINKLATER

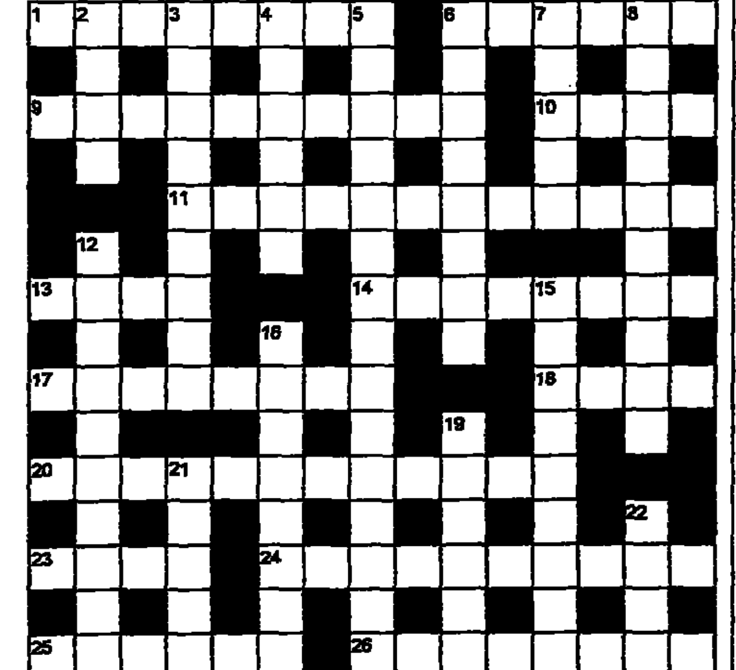
The document I quote from is one of the key constitutional papers of our time. It will set the tone for a new era in democracy. It had better be clear ........ Page 22

### BRONWEN MADDOX

The minute President Clinton walked on to the floor of the House of Representatives it was obvious how foolish Republicans had been to dream that they might bully him into cancelling his State of the Union address ........ Page 22

**Dennis van Thal**, theatrical agent; **Kathleen Basford**, author; **Professor Qian Zhongshu**, scholar; **Sir James Whitaker**, Halifax Building Society ........ Page 25

Arms trade; Aldeburgh Festival; erosion; early bath for RFU; medical negligence awards; allegations against Lord Goodman ........ Page 23



**TOMORROW**

## IN THE TIMES

■ **MEDIA**

Another executive departure: where does it leave the Boycott Express?

■ **EDUCATION**

Why the Blairs are not *the only parents to* discover the success of Roman Catholic schools

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,006

**ACROSS**

1 *Copper left in box rejected – that way leads nowhere* (3-2-3).
6 *What one gets to eat before noon – five to twelve, say* (6).
9 *Telegraph* to cut directors (10).
10 Grouse meat (4).
11 *Piece that's rough, we hear, for Punch*, say (7-5).
13 Fuel used in older vehicles (4).
14 His teatime story was well-founded (8).
17 Intimidate cricket side at start of play (5-3).
18 Literary heroine escorted by Pip after lunch (4).
20 Unfeeling like Olive, say (5-7).
23 Fly bite is receding (4).
24 Bend a rule with a novel that's *badly written* (10).
25 Spartan quarters always occupied (6).
26 Joiners who produce trouble in the works (8).

**DOWN**

2 University officer, particularly in Scotland (4).
3 So reckless, dissipated dread over harm (9).
4 Vehicle capsized on journey *underground* (6).
5 Man with a mission is electrified by amours (6-9).
6 Singer's embarrassed debut (8).
7 Club upset by scoreless draw? It's unacceptable (5).
8 Magic words making sort of sense in a poem, perhaps (4,6).
12 Enact cruel changes, showing lack of enthusiasm (10).
15 Exaggerated, having taken more than one should (9).
16 *Protection for a setter, perhaps, in* a disgraceful situation (8).
19 A tart's built up in layers (6).
21 Time in Ireland over for this salt (5).
22 Blame lack of clarity in speech (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,005

WARDROBE HOBBIT
A E A U T R E
SCARCITY HAVANA
P R O C G G N T
INSHORTORDER
O L T E A Y O
REEVE REHEARSAL
O F U S A G N L
PETERSHAM INANE
A W O G N P Y
BRIGHTONROCK
R N O K E O P S
INGRID RECUSANT
C E S N R S U
KARATE JETTISON

*Times Two Crossword, page 52*

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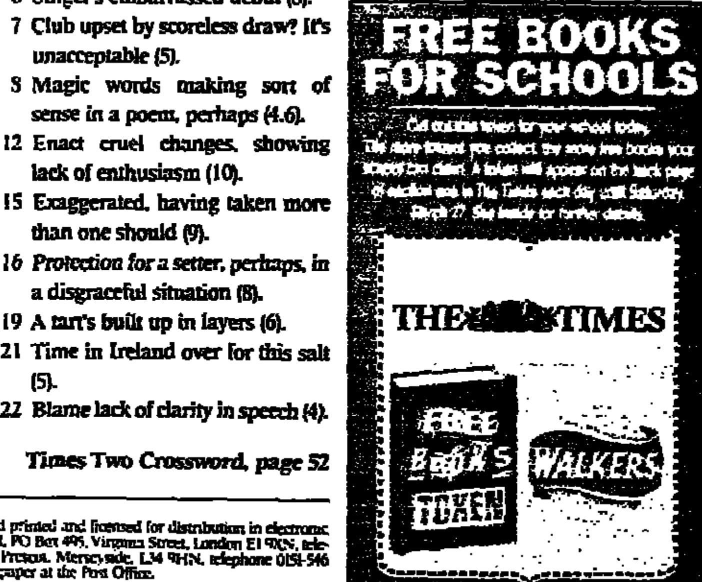
First quarter January 24

London 4.29 pm to 7.52 am
Bristol 4.40 pm to 8.03 am
Edinburgh 4.22 pm to 8.25 am
Manchester 4.30 pm to 8.10 am
Penzance 4.57 pm to 8.09 am



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☐ **General:** rain in SE England before a drier and brighter afternoon. Elsewhere in England and Wales cold with fog patches, sunny spells later. Showers possible in Wales and NW England. Showers in N and W Scotland and N Ireland, perhaps sleet and snow across highlands. E Scotland starting frosty and bright, but showers likely later

☐ **London, SE and Cent S England, E Anglia, Channel Is:** rain at first, drier by afternoon. Light SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E and W Midlands, E England:** early fog clearing to sunny spells. Light W to SW wind. Max 10C (50F)

☐ **SW and NW England, S and N Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man:** early mist, sunny spells and the odd shower. Moderate W to SW wind. Max 9C (48F)

☐ **Central N and NE England:** early mist, then sunny spells and isolated showers. Moderate SW wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** generally dry, higher risk of showers by afternoon. Moderate W wind. Max 6C (43F)

☐ **Aberdeen, Glasgow, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** sunny spells and showers. Moderate SW wind. Max 6C (43F)

☐ **SW Scotland, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showers and sunny spells. Moderate to fresh W to SW wind. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** sunny spells and showers. Moderate W wind. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Irish Republic:** early mist, mostly dry day. Moderate W wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** England and Wales dry. Rain spreading across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

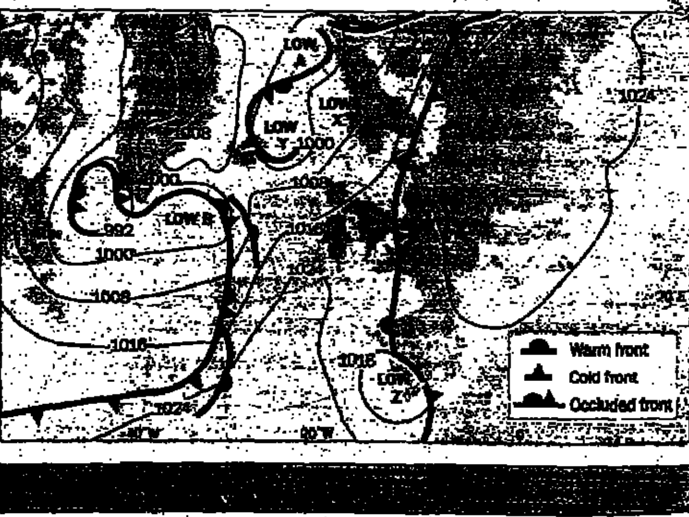
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

| | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | F | | | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | F | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 2.8 | 0.01 | 9 | 48 | sh | Leeds | 0.1 | 0.11 | 13 | 55 | sh |
| Anglesey | 0.7 | 0.13 | 10 | 50 | r | Lerwick | 0.1 | 0.21 | 7 | 45 | c |
| Aspatria | 1.2 | 0.11 | 11 | 52 | c | Leuchars | - | 0.02 | 9 | 48 | sh |
| Aviemore | 0.6 | 0.62 | 7 | 45 | sh | Littlehampton | - | 0.39 | 11 | 52 | r |
| Belfast | 4.1 | 0.16 | 9 | 48 | sh | London | - | 0.17 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Birmingham | 0.2 | 0.05 | 12 | 54 | r | Lowestoft | - | 0.04 | 11 | 52 | r |
| Bognor R | - | 0.37 | 11 | 52 | r | Manchester | - | 0.11 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Bournemouth | - | 0.86 | 11 | 52 | r | Margate | - | 0.08 | 11 | 52 | r |
| Bristol | 0.2 | 0.50 | 13 | 55 | r | Morecambe | 0.2 | 0.36 | 11 | 52 | r |
| Buxton | - | 0.26 | 11 | 52 | r | Newcastle | 4.1 | 0.01 | 13 | 55 | s |
| Clacton | - | 0.02 | 9 | 48 | r | Newquay | - | 0.42 | 12 | 54 | r |
| Cleethorpes | 1.4 | 0.01 | 14 | 57 | b | Norwich | - | 0.06 | 12 | 54 | r |
| Colwyn Bay | 1.3 | 0.03 | 14 | 57 | b | Oxford | 0.2 | 0.25 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Cromer | - | 0.07 | 12 | 54 | sh | Penzance | - | 0.61 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Eastbourne | - | 0.29 | 11 | 52 | d | Prestatyn | 1.3 | 0.02 | 13 | 55 | b |
| Edinburgh | 0.5 | 0.37 | 9 | 48 | r | Ross on Wye | 0.5 | 0.18 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Eskdalemuir | - | 0.88 | 8 | 46 | r | Saunton Sands | - | 0.28 | 12 | 54 | r |
| Exmouth | - | 0.47 | 12 | 54 | r | Scarborough | 0.6 | 0.13 | 12 | 54 | r |
| Folkestone | - | 0.24 | 10 | 50 | r | Shrewsbury | - | 0.03 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Glasgow | 0.1 | 0.38 | 9 | 48 | sh | Skegness | 0.5 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | c |
| Guernsey | - | 0.39 | 13 | 55 | r | Southport | X | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | sh |
| Hastings | - | 0.20 | 10 | 50 | r | Stornoway | 3.5 | 0.43 | 8 | 46 | s |
| Hayling I. | - | 0.50 | 10 | 50 | r | Swanage | - | 0.57 | 11 | 52 | r |
| Hove | - | 0.09 | 10 | 50 | r | Teignmouth | - | 0.44 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Hunstanton | 0.4 | 0.03 | 1 | 34 | c | Tiree | 0.3 | 0.28 | 9 | 48 | r |
| Isle of Man | 3.4 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | s | Torquay | - | 0.56 | 13 | 55 | r |
| Isle of Wight | X | 0.42 | 11 | 52 | r | Tynemouth | - | - | 12 | 54 | c |
| Jersey | - | 0.16 | 11 | 52 | r | Weymouth | - | 0.60 | 11 | 52 | r |
| Kinloss | 3.4 | 0.01 | 9 | 48 | s | | | | | | |

Yesterday: highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 4C (39F), highest rainfall: Bristol, 0.91ins, highest sunshine: Newquay, 6.9hrs

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ajaccio | 14 | 57 | s | Cologne | 8 | 46 | s | Madrid | 5 | 41 | s | Rome | 14 | 57 | s |
| Akrotiri | 13 | 55 | f | C'phagn | 4 | 39 | c | Majorca | 15 | 59 | s | Salzburg | 3 | 37 | s |
| Alex'dria | 17 | 63 | f | Corfu | 14 | 57 | s | Malaga | 14 | 57 | s | S Frisco | 14 | 57 | s |
| Algiers | 14 | 57 | c | Dublin | 11 | 52 | s | Malta | 16 | 61 | c | Santiago | 26 | 79 | s |
| Amst'dm | 8 | 46 | c | Dubrovnik | 14 | 57 | s | Melbourne | 19 | 66 | s | S Paulo | X | | |
| Athens | 11 | 52 | c | Faro | 13 | 55 | s | Mexico C | 16 | 61 | s | Seoul | 6 | 43 | c |
| Bahrain | 19 | 66 | s | Florence | 11 | 52 | s | Miami | 27 | 81 | s | Singapore | 30 | 86 | f |
| Bangkok | 34 | 93 | f | Frankfurt | 7 | 45 | s | Milan | 5 | 41 | c | Stockholm | 3 | 37 | c |
| Barbados | 28 | 82 | f | Funchal | 17 | 63 | c | Montreal | 2 | 36 | f | Strasb'rg | 9 | 48 | s |
| Barcelona | 13 | 55 | s | Geneva | 2 | 36 | fg | Moscow | -3 | 27 | c | Sydney | 29 | 84 | s |
| Beirut | 13 | 55 | f | Gibraltar | 13 | 55 | s | Munich | 5 | 41 | s | Tangier | 13 | 55 | s |
| Belgrade | -1 | 30 | fg | Helsinki | 1 | 34 | c | Nairobi | 28 | 82 | s | Tel Aviv | 11 | 52 | c |
| Berlin | 7 | 45 | s | Hong K | 23 | 73 | s | Naples | 13 | 55 | f | Tenerife | 18 | 64 | c |
| Bermuda | 23 | 73 | s | Innsbruck | 4 | 39 | s | N Delhi | 12 | 54 | fg | Tokyo | 9 | 48 | f |
| Biarritz | 15 | 59 | s | Istanbul | 6 | 43 | f | N York | 9 | 48 | s | Toronto | 0 | 32 | c |
| Bordeaux | 11 | 52 | s | Jeddah | 25 | 77 | s | Nice | 14 | 57 | s | Tunis | 11 | 52 | r |
| Brussels | 9 | 48 | f | Jo'burg | 28 | 82 | f | Oslo | 3 | 37 | c | Valencia | 13 | 55 | s |
| Budapest | 5 | 41 | s | L Palmas | 18 | 66 | c | Paris | 9 | 48 | c | Vanc'ver | 7 | 45 | r |
| B Aires | 25 | 77 | f | Le Touqt | 9 | 48 | f | Perth | 32 | 90 | s | Venice | 8 | 46 | s |
| Beijing | 1 | 34 | s | Lisbon | 10 | 50 | f | Prague | -1 | 30 | fg | Vienna | 3 | 37 | s |
| Cairo | 18 | 64 | f | Locarno | 8 | 46 | s | Reykjavik | -4 | 25 | sn | Warsaw | -1 | 30 | fg |
| Cape Tn | 28 | 82 | s | L Angeles | 15 | 59 | f | Rhodes | 12 | 54 | s | Wash'ton | 11 | 52 | s |
| Chicago | -2 | 28 | f | Luxmbg | 3 | 37 | f | Rio de J | 30 | 86 | s | W'lngton | 18 | 64 | x |
| Ch'church | X | | | Luxor | 22 | 72 | s | Riyadh | 20 | 68 | s | Zurich | -1 | 30 | fg |

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available




Changes to chart below from noon: lows A, X and Y are expected to drift northeast, slowly filling; low B should deepen as it moves east; low Z is expected to fill as it moves slowly south.

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

| TODAY | AM | HT | PM | HT | TODAY | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 3:37 | 4.2 | 15:42 | 4.3 | Liverpool | 1:15 | 9.2 | 13:35 | 9.4 |
| Avonmouth | 9:33 | 13.3 | 21:51 | 13.0 | London Bridge | 4:01 | 7.2 | 16:27 | 7.3 |
| Belfast | 1:05 | 3.4 | 13:18 | 3.6 | Lowestoft | 11:57 | 2.3 | 23:57 | 2.6 |
| Cardiff | 9:19 | 12.3 | 21:37 | 12.0 | Margate | 2:05 | 4.8 | 14:33 | 4.7 |
| Devonport | 7:57 | 5.5 | 20:18 | 5.2 | Milford Haven | 8:32 | 6.9 | 20:51 | 6.7 |
| Dover | 1:04 | 6.6 | 13:21 | 6.5 | Newquay | 7:26 | 6.9 | 19:44 | 6.7 |
| Dublin | 1:41 | 3.9 | 13:51 | 4.1 | Oban | 7:58 | 4.0 | 20:09 | 3.8 |
| Falmouth | 7:28 | 5.3 | 19:49 | 5.0 | Penzance | 6:54 | 5.6 | 19:19 | 5.3 |
| Greenock | 2:46 | 3.3 | 15:00 | 3.6 | Portland | 9:27 | 2.1 | 21:51 | 1.9 |
| Harwich | 1:57 | 3.9 | 14:22 | 3.9 | Portsmouth | 1:30 | 4.6 | 13:39 | 4.6 |
| Holyhead | 0:23 | 5.4 | 12:40 | 5.7 | Shoreham | 1:21 | 6.2 | 13:29 | 6.1 |
| Hull (Albert D) | 8:37 | 8.5 | 20:47 | 8.8 | Southampton | 1:01 | 4.5 | 13:08 | 4.5 |
| Ilfracombe | 8:18 | 9.2 | 20:37 | 8.9 | Swansea | 8:33 | 12.1 | 20:54 | 11.7 |
| King's Lynn | 8:39 | 6.6 | 20:46 | 7.1 | Tees | 6:02 | 9.8 | 18:08 | 10.6 |
| Leith | 4:54 | 5.4 | 17:07 | 5.5 | Walton-On-Naze | 1:43 | 4.1 | 14:12 | 4.2 |

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



**BUSINESS**
Graham Searjeant on the romance of industry




**ARTS**
Will this man become rock's next big thing?




**SPORT**
Collymore stirs up trouble for Aston Villa


**TELEVISION AND RADIO**


BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JANUARY 21 1999

# RIM's bid for Mirror backed by Soros millions

BY JASON NISSÉ

GEORGE SOROS, the investor famous for making £1 billion when sterling was forced out of the exchange-rate *mechanism, is one of* the undeclared backers for the £913 million bid for Mirror Group by *Regional Independent Media* (RIM).

The Soros Fund, Mr Soros's investment vehicle, and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the German-owned investment bank, have *joined with* Candover, the venture capital house, to provide £400 million of equity for the potential offer.

The rest of the money is coming from debt, underwritten by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank that may also put some equity finance into the deal.

Officially RIM, which publishes the *Yorkshire Post* among other titles, would be making the offer, which will only be put to shareholders if recommended by the Mirror board. However, RIM is valued at only £360 million and does not have the firepower *for such a large bid.*

RIM would have to refinance Mirror's £500 million of debts, bringing the *total cost of the 200p* a share offer to more than £1.4 billion.

The structure of the new company will see Candover as the largest shareholder with Soros Fund and DMG *putting in at least* £100 *million* each.

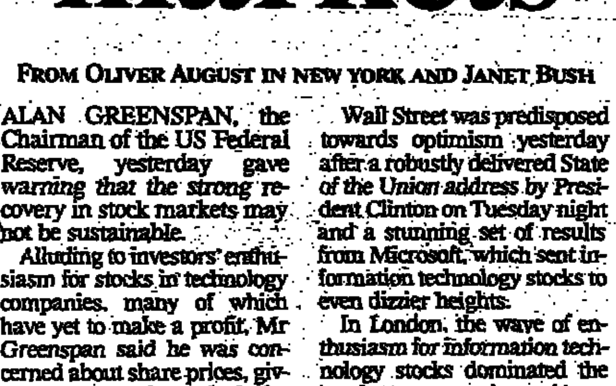
Mr Soros bought shares in Mir*ror Group when its price collapsed* after the death of Robert Maxwell in 1991. However, he sold out shortly after *David Montgomery* took over as chief executive the following year.

News *of RIM's interest sent* Mirror shares soaring this week, though they fell back 5p yesterday to *201½p. RIM faces competition from* Trinity, the regional newspaper group, which was in merger talks *with Mirror from November* until earlier this month, when the discussions fell apart.

One of the sticking points has been the future role of Mr Mont*gomery. Trinity wanted him to leave* after a transitional period though RIM is willing to offer him a seat on *the board of the enlarged group.*

Phillips & Drew Fund Management, which owns 22 per cent of Mirror, *prefers* Trinity's *approach. However*, indications last night were it may change its position if RIM lifts its bid. Other large shareholders in Mirror may be willing to accept a cash offer.

# Fed chief fears for recovery of stock markets



FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK AND JANET BUSH

ALAN GREENSPAN, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, yesterday gave *warning that the strong* recovery in stock markets may not be sustainable.

Alluding to investors' enthusiasm for stocks in technology companies, many of which have yet to make a profit, Mr Greenspan said he was concerned about share prices, given the uncertain outlook for earnings growth.

In his annual State of the Economy address before Congress, Mr Greenspan also *challenged President Clinton's* proposal under which $675 billion of US social security money would be shifted into stock market funds managed by Wall Street.

Although Mr Greenspan said he *supported* the idea of putting 62 per cent of the budget surpluses into social security cash reserves, he *said the* plan to direct about a quarter of this money into stocks could damage the economy. He feared that the money would not be insulated from political interests, a view echoed by *Wall Street professionals.*

He said that the current level of share prices "would appear to envision substantially greater growth of profits than has been experienced of late". He also said that, while markets *had undoubtedly* stabilised significantly, "they remain fragile, as the repercus*sions of the recent Brazilian* devaluation attest". He said that "a decline in equity values, especially a severe one, could lead to a considerable weakening of consumer demand."

However, Wall Street opted *to focus on the most positive* sections of the testimony in which Mr Greenspan said that the *economy's performance* to the turn of the year had been "outstanding" and that there was scant evidence of an economic *slowdown.*

Traders chose to ignore Mr Greenspan's words of caution and the Dow Jones index traded up 124 *points after* he completed his address, boosted largely by further gains in technology stocks.

Wall Street was predisposed towards optimism yesterday after a robustly delivered State *of the Union address by President* Clinton on Tuesday night and a stunning set of results from Microsoft, which sent information technology stocks to even dizzier heights.

In London, the wave of en*thusiasm for information* technology stocks dominated the market once again and was largely responsible for the FTSE 100 index closing 78 points higher at 6,105.6.

Wall Street also challenged *President Clinton's proposals.* Michael Jones, a managing director at Mentor Investment *Group, said: "The concept that* long-term liabilities should have the best-performing long-term assets — namely stocks — is a good one. But the concept of the Government investing the money is anathe*ma. The moment you have the* Government investing you'll have each senator pushing his or her pet projects. That could kill the project."

Commentary, page 29



Alan Greenspan challenged President Clinton's proposal to put social security money into shares

# High prices blamed for sharp fall in retail sales

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

HIGH street sales fell sharply in December with the City blaming retailers for raising their prices to levels unacceptable to consumers.

Sales volumes fell by 0.9 per *cent compared with November*, giving a year-on-year rise of only 0.7 per cent, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics.

This performance was much weaker than the small *gain that* the City *had been* expecting but was seen as consistent with Tuesday's news of an upward *blip in* underlying inflation last month.

Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC, said that retailers, encouraged by stronger sales in November, had apparently kept prices high in the first few *weeks of* December, *leading to* disappointing sales. He said that retailers would then have been forced to discount, good news for inflation in January.

Together with the minutes of the January meeting of the *Monetary Policy Committee,* which yesterday showed a seven to two majority in favour of *the 0.25 per cent cut in base* rates that resulted, the City concluded that another lowering in rates may now be on the cards.

The minutes showed that DeAnne Julius had argued for a 0.50 *per cent cut in rates* while Ian Plenderleith of the Bank of England had argued for rates *to remain* unchanged. However, he was not opposed to lower rates *per se,* acknowledging *that if the* economic data warranted it rates could be cut by a larger amount in February.

*Much will depend on* tomorrow's first estimate of fourth-quarter gross domestic product. Together with yesterday's weak sales figures, a fall in GDP would mean that it is "game-on for a rate cut" in February, *according to Adam* Law, of Barclays Capital.

Supporting the view that December's *retail sales* were weak because they were over-priced rather than because consumers are drawing in their horns *was the latest survey of* consumer confidence published yesterday by GfK for *the European Commission* and covering January.

This showed that, although confidence about the general economic outlook *remained* low and fears of unemployment high, optimism about *personal finances rebounded* sharply in January to a record high. In addition, *GfK's quarterly* business confidence barometer showed a sharp increase in the number of managing directors who expect to employ *more* people this year.

GfK said its survey results were *similar to those recorded* in 1985/86 when the economy suffered a slowdown but not a *full-scale* recession.

## BUSINESS TODAY

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FTSE 100 | 6105.6 | (+78.0) |
| Yield | 2.68% | |
| FTSE All Share | 2780.57 | (+29.84) |
| Nikkei | 14028.05 | (+257.61) |
| New York: | | |
| Dow Jones | 9436.84 | (+81.62)* |
| S&P Composite | 1269.38 | (+17.38)* |

**US RATE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Federal Funds | 4¾%* | (4¾%) |
| Long bond | 100[illegible]* | (101[illegible]) |
| Yield | 5.21%* | (5.14%) |

**LONDON MONEY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3-mth interbank | 5[illegible]% | (5[illegible]%) |
| Liffe long gilt future (Mar) | 119.53 | (119.31) |

**STERLING**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New York: | | |
| $ | 1.6473* | (1.6583) |
| London: | | |
| $ | 1.6474 | (1.6585) |
| € | 1.4238 | (1.4290) |
| SFr | 2.2868 | (2.2811) |
| Yen | 186.98 | (188.55) |
| £ Index | 99.5 | (99.9) |

**DOLLAR**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London: | | |
| € | 1.1675* | (1.1617) |
| SFr | 1.3889* | (1.3760) |
| Yen | 113.62* | (113.44) |
| $ Index | 104.3 | (104.3) |

Tokyo close Yen 113.38

**NORTH SEA OIL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent15-day(Apr). | $10.75 | ($10.90) |

**GOLD**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London close | $286.15 | ($285.75) |

Exchange rates ........ Page 28

* denotes midday trading prices

# Thomson denounces BAe deal

THOMSON-CSF, the French defence-electronics group, last night made plain its anger at *Tuesday's deal between* British Aerospace and GEC Marconi (Adam Sage writes).

In a statement after a board meeting, Thomson denounced the BAe-GEC agreement as a "purely national merger".

*Contradicting BAe claims* that it had laid the foundation for European defence industry consolidation, Thomson said: "The creation of a national block fits with difficulty into the picture of European *restructuring.*"

Managers of Thomson, which had offered £6 billion *for Marconi, said the savings* and benefits for shareholders from its offer would have been greater.

# Standby for the virtual index

BY CHRIS AYRES

COMPANIES with large prof*its need not apply.* FTSE International, the organiser of Britain's stock indices, is to create *an elite sub-sector for the* burgeoning collection of Internet companies, where profits will be strictly virtual.

Plans to create the sub-sector have been revealed amid an Internet gold-rush that has seen one company, *Internet* games producer On-Line, experience a 2,088 per cent share price rise over the past two weeks — *from 12½p to 273½p.*

Experts predict that the sub-sector, to be launched in April, will encourage thousands of *private investors* to make wild punts on obscure Internet stocks, in the hope that they will one day become the next Yahoo!, the loss-making US Internet company that is now valued at more than $30 billion (£18 billion).

However, *only companies* that make most of their revenues from the Internet will be allowed in. This excludes ma*jor retailers* such as Dixons and WH Smith.

Five companies are likely to be initially *included in the sub*sector: Easynet, Internet Technology Group, Netcall, Voss Net and Gresham Computing.

Commentary, page 29

# Sears in fresh talks with JIL

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

PHILIP GREEN and Aidan Barclay were last night locked in talks with the board of Sears about raising their 340p per share bid for the retail group by up to 15p.

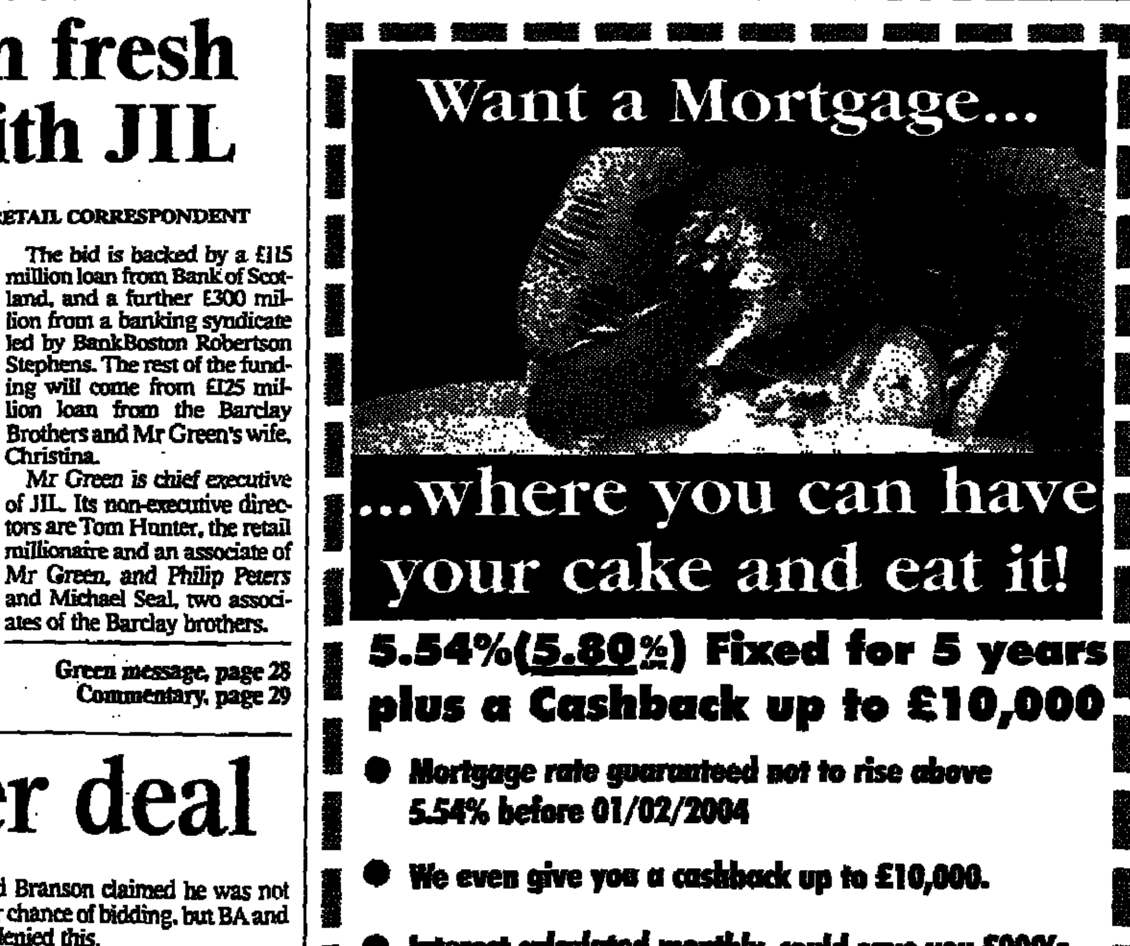
In return, the Sears direc*tors, led by Sir Bob Reid,* chairman, which rejected a £519 million bid last week, would reverse *their position and recom*mend that shareholders accept the higher bid.

The bid vehicle is January *Investments (JIL), set up by* Mr Green and David and Frederick Barclay, the property and media tycoons. Aidan Barclay, the *son of* David, is chairman of JIL.

The bid is backed by a £115 million loan from Bank of Scotland, and a further £300 million from a banking syndicate led by BankBoston Robertson Stephens. The rest of the funding will come from £125 million loan from the Barclay Brothers and Mr Green's wife, Christina.

*Mr Green is chief executive* of JIL. Its non-executive directors are Tom Hunter, the retail millionaire and an associate of *Mr Green, and Philip Peters* and Michael Seal, two associates of the Barclay brothers.

Green message, page 28
Commentary, page 29




# MMC to investigate CityFlyer deal

BY ADAM JONES



Byers: referred BA's bid

BRITISH AIRWAYS, already reeling from a fall in first class *and business* sales, *suffered* another blow yesterday when its purchase of CityFlyer Express was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission *by Stephen Byers,* the *Secretary of State* for Trade and Industry.

The £75 million deal would have left BA with 44 per cent of all take-off and *landing* slots at Gatwick, *and prompted* angry pro*tests from* Virgin Atlantic.

CityFlyer is a short-haul BA franchisee and is the second-biggest user of Gatwick, with 12 per cent of all slots, compared with BA's 32 per cent. Its planes are decorated with the BA livery and its staff wear BA uniforms.

The existing link between the two com*panies* was thought to have been an argument against an MMC referral. A BA spokeswoman said: "While we are disappointed with the referral to *the MMC,* we are confident that we will be able to persuade them that the deal should be approved."

*The MMC will make its report by April* 28. The referral delays a £30 million payout to CityFlyer staff, who own 40 per cent of the company. The other 60 per cent is *owned by venture capitalists,* including Mercury Asset Management.

Virgin had also wanted to buy CityFlyer. Richard Branson claimed he was not given a fair chance of bidding, but BA and CityFlyer denied this.

A Virgin *spokesman* said *yesterday:* "We stand ready and willing to buy CityFlyer. We need to expand the *number of slots we have at Gatwick.*"

He said Virgin was suprised that the deal was struck in the first place: "People are not prepared to tolerate this kind of *concentration of market share at airports* any more."

The spokesman said the deal would give BA 56 per cent of take-off and landing *slots for scheduled flights, the market* Virgin wants to crack. British Airways shares fell from 389p to 375p yesterday.

# Sears investors receive catalogue of failure


Reid: criticised in document

THE message from Aidan Barclay and Philip Green to Sears's investors is a simple one: "£519 million in cash requires no explanation."

But just in case any shareholders in the ailing retail group need a bit more persuading, the chairman and the chief executive of January Investments, the company set up to bid for Sears, go for the hard sell and give a long list of reasons why its 340p cash per share should be accepted.

The offer document, which is being sent to shareholders, pulls no punches on why they should not allow themselves to be swayed into rejecting the bid by the current management.

According to the document, Sears's management are responsible for a catalogue of failures. These include failed attempts to sell or demerge Freemans, the home shopping business, and a failure to realise value from the Selfridges demerger. "Do shareholders consider this mildly disappointing?" is the pointed question.

It describes the recent history of Freemans as "a catalogue of disasters", and the defunct British Shoe Corporation (part of which was sold to Mr Green) as having "two left feet". Selfridges — the department store company — is described as "once the jewel in the crown, now a property play".

The document also attacks Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, pointing out that he is also: chairman of British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate; Deputy Governor of the Bank of Scotland:, non-executive director of Sun Life Assurance Co of Canada: non-executive director of Siemens and chancellor of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

It points out that since the departure of Liam Strong in April 1997, Sir Bob has effectively been stand-in chief executive for the group.

"After years of presiding over "the incredible shrinking company", the management, which has overseen a series of humiliating losses on disposals, redundancies and failed reorganisation, is now advising you, the shareholders, to reject the certainty of a full cash offer in the current climate of retail uncertainty."

These criticisms of Sears will be familiar territory for many shareholders, who have watched the value of the company diminish dramatically in recent years as assets have been sold off.

But the final argument used by the bidders in the document, and perhaps the most persuasive one, is that Phillips & Drew, the largest shareholder with more than 22 per cent, agreed to sell its stake as soon as the offer was made unconditional.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

# Clinton in renewed assault on Big Tobacco

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT CLINTON has exploited America's anti-smoking sentiments and demanded new funds from "Big Tobacco" over billion-dollar healthcare payments.

After US tobacco companies, including BAT, agreed to a $200 billion (£121 billion) settlement of a suit filed by individual states last year, the Government in Washington will now seek a similar deal.

Tobacco stocks fell sharply in response after enjoying a rally lasting several months. In London, BAT slipped 18p to 639p after rising from 319p since last April. In New York, US tobacco companies, including Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco, fell about 5 per cent.

Mr Clinton made the surprise announcement in his State of the Union speech. The suit is being prepared by the Justice Department to recover the federal costs of treating smoking-related illnesses.

Mr Clinton said: "Smoking has cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Taxpayers shouldn't pay for the cost of lung cancer, emphysema and other smoking-related illness. The tobacco companies should."

A final decision on bringing the case to court has yet to be made but the sum sought by the Government is likely to be at least $20 billion. The biggest cost to the tobacco companies arising from the suit may be the uncertainty they had hoped to put behind them with the last settlement.

Myron Marlin, a Justice Department official, said: "We have looked at this issue at different times in the past and have been reviewing them more actively since the failure of the comprehensive tobacco legislation. We came to the decision that there are viable grounds for recovery."

The Government has spent about $10 billion from its Medicare programme, $5 billion from Medicaid and close to another $5 billion from other programmes, such as veterans benefits and the Federal Employees Health Benefits programme, to treat tobacco-related diseases.

Scott Williams, a tobacco industry spokesman, called Mr Clinton's announcement "a blatantly political act", saying the Justice Department had looked at the issue in the past and decided not to act. "The White House continues to choose confrontation over solutions," he said.

Mr Williams said the Government will have a more difficult time arguing its case than the states did, because the Office of the Surgeon General has been filing reports for decades on the dangers of smoking. He said: "The Government cannot claim ignorance to the health risks associated with tobacco use. This is political. This is about money."

Analysts agreed that Mr Clinton's crusade against tobacco may seem political but they gave warning that this would not be much of a defence for the tobacco companies in court.

One analyst said: "Big Tobacco may be able to show that the Government knew full well that smoking is bad for you. But that doesn't mean smokers knew as well. And if they got ill, they'll blame the companies, not the Government, for not telling them."

DISNEYLAND PARIS


*Euro Disney, which operates the Disneyland Paris theme park, said yesterday that it had enjoyed a 2 per cent rise in first-quarter revenues. In the three months to December 31, it lifted revenues from €198 million (£139 million) to €203 million. The company described the improvement as "encouraging" in the run-up to the scheduled opening in March of its new interactive attraction, Honey, I Shrunk the Audience!. The shares shed ½p to 79½p.*

# Neutron Jack makes a fortune as GE rockets

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

GE, the US industrial conglomerate whose diverse products range from lightbulbs to locomotives, reported fourth-quarter profits up 14 per cent at the end of a year that saw its shares rise 35 per cent.

The extraordinary gains of the manufacturing behemoth have made Jack Welch, the chief executive, one of America's top earners in 1998. According to a survey out yesterday, Mr Welch saw the seventh biggest share option increase in the US.

The man known as Neutron Jack for his cost-cutting zeal saw the paper value of his options on GE shares rise $124 million.

GE, which was surpassed by Microsoft as biggest US company by stock market value late last year, said 1998 revenue broke through the $100 billion barrier for the first time.

Quarterly profits rose to $2.67 billion, compared with $2.35 billion a year ago. Fourth-quarter revenue rose 7.3 per cent to $28.6 billion from $26.7 billion.

Looking ahead, the company said it is "well positioned" to report record results in 1999. For the full year, the company posted revenue of $100.47 billion, up from $90.84 billion a year earlier. Profits for the year climbed 13 per cent to $9.3 billion from $8.2 billion a year ago.

GE has completed $13.6 billion of a $17 billion buyback programme.

Elsewhere, General Motor's fourth-quarter profits rose 55 per cent as the biggest US car maker bounced back from last summer's nationwide strike and lockout.

Profits climbed from $1.4 billion to $2.2 billion, ahead of analysts' expectations. Revenue rose by 8.1 per cent to $46.37 billion from $42.90 billion.

Strong vehicle sales and aggressive cost-cutting initiatives powered the earnings increase, GM said, allowing the company to recover quickly from the strike. John Smith, the chairman, said: "We came back strongly following the work stoppage in mid-year, and we intend to keep this momentum going in the future."

GM Europe posted fourth-quarter earnings of $146 million, compared with $31 million a year ago.

# Banks to be put in spotlight

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

UK BANKS may have to review prices they charge customers after an inquiry into banking practices, to be unveiled by the Treasury next week.

The review, to be led by Don Cruickshank, the Government's millennium bug chief and former telecoms watchdog, will look at all aspects of banking, including mortgages, credit cards and dealings with small businesses.

The banks said yesterday that they welcomed the review, claiming they offered their customers good-value services.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, announced the review in his Pre-Budget Report in November. Initially, it was anticipated that it would focus on small businesses, in a bid to improve productivity, but its remit has been widened to include all aspects of banking.

Mr Cruickshank has been talking to chief executives of UK clearing banks to establish the outline of the inquiry. The industry been attacked recently over its attitude to business borrowers during an economic downturn.

The British Bankers' Association claimed they had nothing to fear from the probe, adding that the UK banks were among the best in Europe.

"We believe the industry is competitive," said the BBA. But it welcomed the government's decision to review the industry, which it said employs 1.5 per cent of the workforce.

# First-time buyers cautious

BY SUSAN EMMETT

CAUTIOUS first-time buyers are saving for longer and borrowing a far lower proportion of the price of their home, according to a survey published yesterday.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions show that although first-time buyers are still borrowing about two and a quarter times their income, average deposits are now nearly 20 per cent compared with only 10 per cent in 1996.

Tighter credit conditions and lenders' reluctance to offer 100 per cent mortgages have contributed to the changes.

A spokeswoman for the CML said: "People are waiting for longer and having more savings behind them before taking that first step. This is a reflection of more caution in the market, which is very different from the mid-1980s, when people were rushing to get on to the property ladder."

The CML said first-time buyers were older with only 19 per cent under 25 years in 1997 compared with 32 per cent in the 1980s.

However, the proportion moving homeowners borrow has remained steady at two-thirds of the value of the property with a mortgage of about twice their income.

# Greenpeace hots up Alaskan oil war

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR


Greenpeace filed a suit against the Alaskan government

GREENPEACE is taking legal action in an attempt to stop BP Amoco from developing a $500 million (£303 million) offshore oilfield in Alaska.

The move threatens to escalate the battle between environmentalists on the one hand and the interest of the oil industry and the Alaskan government, both suffering from low oil prices.

The campaign group has filed a suit against the Alaskan government claiming it has illegally granted the oil company permission to begin construction of an "ice road" nine miles into the Beaufort Sea.

Greenpeace has filed for a "stay", effectively an injunction, to stop work on the Northstar project, the first offshore oil development in the Arctic Ocean. The writ has been filed against the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, on the grounds that BP does not have the necessary permits required by federal and state law. BP said Greenpeace's claim was without merit.

The action is part of Greenpeace's campaign to curb greenhouse gas emissions in areas such as Alaska and West of Shetlands in the UK. Melanie Duchin, a Greenpeace spokesperson in Alaska, said the government had jumped the gun by allowing BP to go ahead before a proper assessment had been made.

BP has already suffered setbacks in the state to its plans to reverse the steady decline in Alaskan oil production. Last week, the company admitted that Northstar production would be delayed by a year due to low oil prices.

BP is under pressure to raise production by an extra 145,000 barrels per day of output from the Eastern North Slope, which includes Northstar. Alaska's government is labouring under a heavy deficit and is keen to open up development of oilfields in previously protected federal lands such as the National Petroleum Reserve and Wildlife Refuge.

# Comcast to sell its mobile phone arm

COMCAST, the US television company, has agreed to sell its cellular telephone subsidiary to SBC Communications, the regional telephone company, in a deal worth about $1.7 billion (£1 billion). The transaction, which includes $400 million in cash and SBC's assumption of about $1.3 billion of Comcast debt, follows Vodafone's agreement to acquire AirTouch Communications, the US mobile phone giant, for about $66.5 billion.

Comcast Cellular operates around Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware. SBC, which also has a pending agreement to buy Ameritech, the telecoms company, for $61 billion, currently operates cellular services under the Cellular One brand in the Washington-Baltimore area, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and upstate New York.

# CGU syndicate move

CGU is to become the first composite insurer to set up a syndicate underwriting risks at Lloyd's, the insurance market. It is transferring its London marine business from the Institute of London Underwriters to Lloyd's by setting up a syndicate wholly capitalised by CGU and managed by the Marlborough Underwriting Agency. It currently owns 51 per cent of Marlborough, but the stake will be lifted to 60 per cent as part of the deal. The move further underlines the fundamental changes taking place at Lloyd's and the increasing influence of so-called corporate capital at the expense of names.

# Hammerson buy

HAMMERSON, the property group, has acquired two adjacent office buildings in Docklands, London, for a total of £76.9 million. Harbour Exchange One and Two, known as Exchange Tower, have a combined annual rental income of £5 million, with tenants including Cable & Wireless and BT. Roger Spinney, Hammerson's chief executive, said: "As a result of its increasing critical mass, improving access, including progress on the Jubilee Line, and the enhanced perceptions of investors and occupiers, we anticipate that this area of the Docklands will perform well against other Central London office locations."

# Cortecs secures deal

CORTECS, the troubled drug development company, has secured a deal with Merck KGaA of Germany to distribute Macritonin, its capsule to treat osteoporosis, in Spain. Hopes that Macritonin was close to regulatory approval are much diminished after authorities in Finland asked for more demanding data from Cortecs. To save costs, the company has recently made more than 60 employees redundant, and is closing its London headquarters. Merck will pay Cortecs £500,000, with a further £1 million to follow on it winning Spanish marketing authorisation. The shares fell 3p to 28¾p.

# United buys into US

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA added to its market research capacity with an agreed offer to buy America's Audits & Surveys Worldwide for $42.5 million (about £26 million). United said the deal, which is expected to enhance earnings in the first year, doubles the company's presence in America. The company's enlarged United Information Group subsidiary will have $240 million in annual revenues. United shares rose 14p to 494p yesterday.

The New York-based ASW was founded in 1953 by its current chairman Sol Dutka who will continue as chairman.

# Milk inquiry extended

THE Government has agreed to extend the Monopolies and Mergers Commissions inquiry into the supply of raw milk by one month to allow sufficient time for Milk Marque, which controls the supply of about half the raw milk in England and Wales, to check the evidence it gave the inquiry. This is the second time the inquiry has been extended. The MMC was due to report by October 26, but the Government allowed an extension to January 26. The report will now be handed to the Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, on February 26.

# Gooch & Housego up

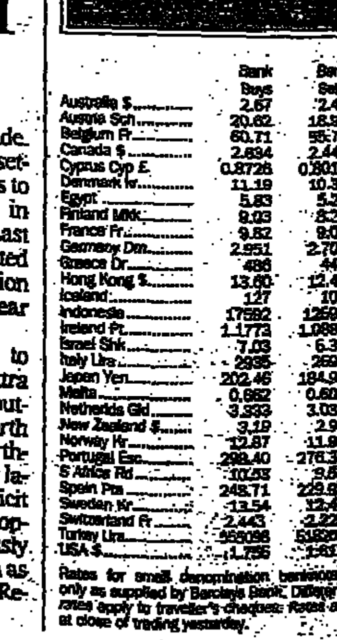
GOOCH & HOUSEGO, the optical components manufacturer, yesterday announced its first annual results since flotation on the Alternative Investment Market in December 1997. The group lifted pre-tax profits to £1.8 million for the year ended September 30, up from £1.6 million last year, on turnover of £7.2 million (£6.7 million). Earnings per share were 7.5p (7.4p) and a final dividend of 1.2p brings the total to 1.7p. Archie Gooch, executive chairman, said: "Developments taking place in the group, including potential acquisitions, leave it well positioned for continued growth and profitability."

# NTL and 3Com link

NTL, the cable company bidding for Newcastle United football club, yesterday said it had entered a partnership with 3Com, the US telecoms giant, to give its customers "superfast" access to the Internet. The service will use cable modems, with NTL claiming that it will be at least twice as fast as any rival service currently available. Pricing will be based on a flat monthly charge. More than 400,000 people are expected to subscribe to the service in the UK by 2002. "We fully expect that cable modems will become hot property for serious Internet users," NTL said.

# Abbey calls for more

ABBEY NATIONAL is expanding its general insurance call centre in Liverpool, creating 250 new jobs. The centre, opened in November 1997, employs 250 staff and offers home and motor insurance over the telephone. Mike Freeman, operations manager, said: "We have been very impressed by the quality of local recruits who have a positive attitude to work and a friendly approach, which is essential in direct telephone services."



| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|---|---|---|
| Australia $ | 2.67 | 2.49 |
| Austria Sch | 20.62 | 18.96 |
| Belgium Fr | 60.71 | 55.75 |
| Canada $ | 2.694 | 2.446 |
| Cyprus Cyp £ | 0.8726 | 0.8011 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.19 | 10.30 |
| Egypt | 5.83 | 5.22 |
| Finland Mkk | 9.03 | 8.28 |
| France Fr | 9.82 | 9.04 |
| Germany Dm | 2.951 | 2.709 |
| Greece Dr | 486 | 447 |
| Hong Kong $ | 13.60 | 12.49 |
| Iceland | 127 | 107 |
| Indonesia | 17582 | 12692 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.1773 | 1.0883 |
| Israel Shk | 7.03 | 6.37 |
| Italy Lira | 2935 | 2698 |
| Japan Yen | 202.46 | 184.93 |
| Malta | 0.662 | 0.603 |
| Netherlds Gld | 3.333 | 3.038 |
| New Zealand $ | 3.19 | 2.96 |
| Norway Kr | 12.87 | 11.93 |
| Portugal Esc | 298.40 | 276.37 |
| S Africa Rd | 10.53 | 9.68 |
| Spain Pta | 248.71 | 229.92 |
| Sweden Kr | 13.54 | [illegible] |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.443 | [illegible] |
| Turkey Lira | 555098 | 518202 |
| USA $ | 1.756 | 1.632 |

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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# 'Internet' stocks can turn to Cinders

## COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The hallowed chambers in which the committee of the FTSE International conducts its debates could soon be the setting of true pantomime.

"This company thinks its an Internet stock." "Oh no its not." "Oh yes it is." Directors will submit themselves to the awful indignities of the Ugly Sisters as they try to squeeze into the glass slipper that would confer instant glamour, and allow them to skip off into the arms of the princes of the investment world.

The new Internet sub-sector of the FTSE will be THE place to be, with sky-high ratings for those allowed over the threshold. But the Federal Reserve's Alan Greenspan is the sort who could wreck the spirit of a Christmas show. Put him in the audience at Peter Pan, and his would be the voice condemning Tinkerbell to death because he did not believe in fairies. Neither does he believe that every company which can claim a slight involvement with the Web is destined for greatness.

The Fed's voice of sanity spoke out yesterday to warn of the irrational exuberance that is now powering a few shares to ludicrous levels. Dixons and WH Smith may only have been redesignated as Internet stocks in the minds of investors, not yet in the FTSE, but the effect has been to send their shares leaping so that they now sell on multiples way ahead of other stores. Dixons is now valued at almost 30 times earnings. Sotheby's had merely to mention that it was launching an Internet auction business for its shares to gain almost 30 per cent on the New York Stock Exchange.

It is Mr Greenspan's role to try to instil a little sanity in markets but his task is not made easier by Bill Gates. When Microsoft can almost double its profits, as it has in the last quarter, it persuades the market that there is a magic way of making money.

There may be, but, alas, few can find it. Simply adding on an Internet involvement to an existing business will not transform earnings. Microsoft is an extraordinary business, with innovative products and a carefully crafted dominant position in world markets. The way it has achieved that dominance and held onto it remains the subject of protracted anti-trust cases in the United States. Whatever the outcome for Mr Gates and his shareholders, his achievements have certainly made it unlikely that any other business, no matter how high tech its products, will be able to build such a powerful position.

But expressing such sentiments is a vain attempt to spoil the fun. The FTSE changes, creating a new economic grouping, will fuel excitement over the whole information technology sector. Mr Greenspan's very reasonable qualms will do little to deter investors from feeling that they cannot afford not to buy.

But those companies that successfully squeeze into the glass slipper would be well advised to remember what happens when midnight strikes.

### Venturing into private territory

The ever-widening gap between the star sectors of the stock market and the rest can only encourage more companies to think about the joys of going private.

Those venture capitalists prepared to consider the long-term potential of companies in unglamorous sectors find themselves beseiged by managers increasingly demoralised by their lowly share ratings. A miserable stock price causes multiple injuries to otherwise sound businesses. It prevents the company using paper to make acquisitions, at a time when there are plenty of bargains to be had. Instead, it leaves the company dangerously vulnerable to predators, armed either with stronger paper or with cash but not necessarily with better management. Worse still, a miserable share price clobbers management morale. Apart from the sinking feeling occasioned by a glance at the share price tables, there is the effect on incentive schemes. Managers who are doing their best but see their rewards shrinking because they are linked to share prices tend to become disenchanted.

Investors do not take a sympathetic view on this point. Companies that have raised the question of whether they might rebase share options so as to offer some hope to their staff have found the response brief and unsubtle. Institutions take the view that their pain should be shared.

So dozens of companies in sectors such as engineering and retailing are left with the problem of demotivated managers, their share options worthless and their prospects looking grimmer by the day. That is when they turn to the venture capitalists and start to explore the idea of going private.

Goldsmiths is currently working on a deal with Alchemy, Thorn opted out of the stock market courtesy of Nomura and dozens of others are set to follow. It is not difficult to envisage a scenario in which hundreds of companies from the bottom end of the FTSE chose to make a dignified exit and, if the price were not too silly, many investors would not stand in the way.

As major investors look to build pan-European portfolios, it is only the largest UK stocks that will have a significant following. The rest may find a more congenial home with investors who can take a longer-term view instead of merely saying that they do.

The venture capitalists will rebrand themselves as private equity funds and, if they prove themselves, may find the institutions handing over some of their cash.

### Game plan out of Africa

Bernard Asher was like a dunce giving directions yesterday. "Well, I wouldn't be starting from here," was the tenor of his explanation for how badly Lonrho Africa is doing, only nine months after demerging from Lonrho.

It is quite an achievement, delivering losses in your first full year as a quoted company — and a quoted company, remember, which was recapitalised before being sent out into the world on its own. The fine words in the demerger document about Lonrho Africa's prospects are now replaced by carping about the awful state of many of the businesses, the need to pare back and concentrate on what the company is good at, and a moan about Lonrho selling its sugar business — a deal struck two years ago.

At least Asher has some locus for blaming the African trader's former parent for its current troubles, since he was never on Lonrho's board. But the operational management of Lonrho Africa have no such excuses. The same people running these businesses now were running them before the demerger (though they argue that, as they were in Nairobi, they never had the chance to sell the "overall vision for Africa").

Bernard Asher should be glad these results were not out at the time that Blakeney tried to unseat him in the autumn. Had they been, then a different chairman might be presiding over Lonrho Africa today. And he might be thinking about a few management changes.

### Ganging up on Bob

WILL another 15p or so be enough to persuade Sir Bob Reid and his board to succumb to the bid from January? Even the stubborn Sir Bob must be tempted to recommend the offer and avoid an escalation of hostilities into February. With the bank of which he is Deputy Governor funding the opposition, he must be wondering where he can look for support. Sir Norman Tebbit, a non-executive of Sears for 12 years, will surely sympathise with Sir Bob, since his son William is advising January.

# Strippers called in at flagging First Leisure

By Dominic Walsh

MICHAEL GRADE, the embattled chief executive of First Leisure, has signed up the Chippendales in a bid to revive the group's flagging nightclub business.

The male strippers are just one of several weapons being used by Mr Grade in an attempt to reverse a slump in the number of clubbers.

In the first ten weeks of the current year, comparable sales from its bars and nightclubs division were down 7 per cent, significantly down on the 2 per cent drop seen in the second half of last year.

Concerns over current trading, and Mr Grade's refusal to elaborate on his recent statement that the group was in talks on "strategic initiatives" with third parties, sent the group's shares almost 10 per cent lower to 192½p — a far cry from the 436½p they reached in early summer before the sharp decline in consumer confidence.

Mr Grade said the Chippendales would be used at 17 of First Leisure's 40 dance venues to boost trade in the quieter early part of the week and to "create some excitement".

He is also planning to use the chain's 2.7 million-strong membership database and has appointed a new divisional head to shake things up.

But Mr Grade said the group could do nothing about the economic downturn and its nightclubs and bars business was performing "as well as or as badly as our competitors".

He added: "As soon as confidence returns it will bounce back."

His comments came as First Leisure unveiled a decline in pre-tax profits before non-trading exceptional items from £34.5 million to £33.3 million in the year to October 31.

The figure for 1997 has been restated to reflect the adoption of various accounting policy changes related to depreciation of assets and goodwill. Earnings per share reached 15.71p (14.87p) and a final dividend of 6.68p makes 9.53p (9.0p).

Nightclubs and bars lifted operating profits by £1.2 million to £21.9 million, while family entertainment — principally ten-pin bowling — saw a decline from £13.3 million to £12.5 million.

Both divisions suffered from the slump in consumer confidence in the second half of the year, although its bowling centres have continued to trade well following a strong Christmas.

The star of the show was health and fitness, where operating profits jumped from £2.5 million to £9.2 million as the five new venues that came on stream recorded "exceptionally high" membership sales.

Current trading here is also strong, with comparable sales 21 per cent up on a year ago, and Mr Grade said: "There is no evidence of membership retention or recruitment being impacted at all by the economic downturn."

Tempus, page 30

# US group buys Field for £194m

FIELD GROUP, the specialist packaging group, has agreed to a £194 million takeover bid from Chesapeake Corporation, of America (Matthew Barbour writes).

The offer, at 320p per share, represents a premium of 41 per cent over the closing price of Field's shares on January 8, the day before it entered into discussions with the US packager. Field shares rose 23p to 316½p.

Field's main market is producing packaging for drugs products, cigarettes, food and drink. Its shares have fallen over the past 12 months in reaction to a decline in first-half profits and a warning on trading. Sales have been hit by the downturn in the retail sector.

Frank Knight, the chairman, said that he did not expect any job losses.

Tempus, page 30

# Shares slump as Alldays profits halve to £10m

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

SHARES in Alldays, the convenience store group, nearly halved in value yesterday after it delivered much poorer than expected annual profits and gave warning that the current year will also disappoint.

The Scottish company, which operates nearly 1,000 stores either itself or through franchisees, announced that pre-tax profits for the year to November 1 had halved to £10.3 million from £21.5 million. Excluding exceptional items, pre-tax profit was £13.6 million. City expectations were for about £21 million.

Alldays shares fell 75p to 92½p yesterday. They peaked at 626p in June 1998.

Although like-for-like sales rose 6 per cent in company-owned stores in the first eight weeks of this year, this is offset by a reduction in gross margin and continuing problems with head office and supply chain costs.

The company said it is tackling the cost problem through a restructuring. Profits are also being hit by write-offs resulting from a decision to pull out of some unprofitable fast-food areas, such as pizza.

As part of the restructuring, Colin Glass, chief executive, is to take day-to-day control of the retail business. Layers of management are to be reduced.

The company, formerly known as Watson & Philip, is cutting the total dividend to 12p a share from 18.8p, with a final of 6p. Headline earnings fell to 23.2p a share from 35.8p. Despite the dividend cut, the cover based on headline profit after tax, is maintained at 1.9 times.

# Life goes slow at Norwich

NORWICH Union's life business grew by just 4 per cent last year as the insurer struggled against volatile stock markets, slower economic growth and the strong pound (Gavin Lumsden writes).

In sterling terms, worldwide new life business rose by £18 million to £421 million. Norwich Union shares rose 19½p to 487¼p.

UK sales rose by 8 per cent to £283 million. A surge in demand for group personal pensions and loan protection insurance boosted premium sales by 18 per cent to £126 million.

One-off single premium sales rose 2 per cent, although the latest issue of Flexi Bond, a with-profits investment, attracted £392 million, a rise of 6 per cent on 1997.

Tempus, page 30

Rowland Gee, managing director of Moss Bros, which recorded sales growth of 6.3 per cent

# Increase in sales at Moss Bros

By Fraser Nelson

MOSS BROS has emerged as one of the main beneficiaries of the turmoil at Marks & Spencer — increasing its share of the men's suits market from 11.8 per cent to 13 per cent over the past year.

The company, which sells Hugo Boss, YSL and Armani suits from 185 stores, said its overall sales were up by 6.3 per cent against market growth of 2 per cent.

Terry Donovan, finance director, said: "Wherever we open a store, we win market share." Like-for-like sales fell by 1.3 per cent during the six months to January 16, but the company held its gross margins stable at about 50 per cent.

JD Sports surprised the City with a 6.5 per cent rise in underlying sales for the five weeks to January 2 — against the 16 per cent decline turned in by rival JJB Sports.

Peter Cowgill, finance director, attributed this to its "being in tune with the customers", although analysts said it had a rough Christmas over 1997/8 and had an easier comparison.

A last-minute rush for chocolates failed to save Thorntons from a dismal half-year with underlying sales down by 3.8 per cent in the seven weeks to Boxing Day. An increase in its store portfolio helped overall sales to £87.8 million (£80.3 million) for six months to January 9.

# Lonrho Africa into the red

By Jason Nisse

LONRHO AFRICA, which narrowly survived an attempt to oust half of its board last year, yesterday reported disastrous results for the year to September 30 (see Commentary, this page).

Blaming devaluations in three African nations, falling commodity prices and the Nairobi bombing, the group reported a pre-tax loss of £5.7 million, compared with a profit of £22.6 million in 1996/97.

This figure comes after £7 million of exceptional items that relate to provisions for restructuring taken after the company was demerged from Lonrho last May. The company has streamlined its structure so that it has 28 business units in four sectors compared with the 90 that existed before the demerger. About 4,000 jobs have been lost, mostly in Africa.

Loss per share was 7.2p compared with earnings of 6.6p, though the company will still pay a maiden dividend of 2.9p to its shareholders.

These figures do not include any costs associated with the failed attempt by Blakeney Management to oust Bernard Asher, the chairman, and two non-executives. An extraordinary meeting was called but the motion was narrowly defeated. Blakeney retains a 10 per cent stake in the group.

Mr Asher said that Lonrho Africa had to deal will a host of problems during the year. The most serious were currency devaluations, which saw the Zimbabwean dollar fall 63 per cent among other steep declines. Other problems included falling cotton prices and the decline in tourism that followed the bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi.

Mr Asher said the group would now be taking a long, hard look at the businesses it inherited when it was demerged from Lonrho.

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# Link to Internet proves key as FTSE advances

THE easiest way to sell stock in the market these days is to tag it with the Internet label.

It is a sales strategy that appears to be working wonders for a lot of companies as they gaze across the Atlantic at some of the ratings being afforded many of Wall Street's high-tech issues. But investors can be forgiven for being somewhat confused by the identity of some of the shares now caught up in the Internet mania.

Take **Great Universal Stores**, up 49p at 728p. It enjoyed one of the best gains in the retail sector, driven by the growth prospects for the company once it utilises its talents on the Web to sell its products both here and in the US.

Internet prospects and an old-fashioned stock shortage also drove **Reuters** 88p higher to 868p.

Other companies have been getting in on the Internet act. **Dixons**, up 40p at £10.59½, surged by 200p last week as some brokers began to rate it as a technology stock rather than a retailer. **NFC**, up 8p at 119½p, also sees the benefits of surfing the Net.

**WH Smith**, which sells books on the Web, saw its price rise about 30 per cent last week, but finished 10½p down at 614p yesterday.

**Psion** was wanted, 118½p dearer at 845p. Its Symbian joint venture to develop intelligent hand-held devices for use with mobile phones continues to go from strength to strength.

The bears in the market admit there will be some winners, but insist the Internet bubble will eventually burst.

Share prices generally recovered some of this week's losses with investors again pinning their hopes on a cut in interest rates next month. The FTSE 100 index closed just below its best of the day despite the benefit of an early mark-up on Wall Street. The index ended 78.0 up at 6,105.6 on turnover of 1.3 billion shares.

Some bearish comments from Merrill Lynch, the broker, left **GEC** nursing a fall of 23p at 525½p. **BAe** rallied 24½p to 450p.

News of the merger between Telia, the Swedish telecom group, and its Norwegian rival, Telenor, fuelled fresh support for domestic issues. **COLT Telecom** surged a further 77½p to £13.25, **Vodafone** 36p to £11.59, and **Cable & Wireless** 48½p to 994½p. Energis advanced another 80p to £17.35 after the decision of parent company **National Grid**, up 7½p at 552½p, to drop its holding below 50 per cent. The move will catapult Energis into the top 100 companies.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, has cut its recommendation in **Orange**, down 68p at 932½p, from "outperform" to "neutral".

**Marks & Spencer** fell 9½p to a five-year low of 337p in the wake of this month's profits warning. Brokers are worried that the new spring collection will be left on the shelves.

Shami Ahmed, the man behind Joe Bloggs jeans, has emerged as the buyer behind this week's dramatic rally in the **House of Fraser** price. The shares have come up from a low of 51p this month. Yesterday it advanced a further 4½p to 92½p with Mr Ahmed trying to pick up more stock. Hopes are high he may make a full bid.

**Meyer International** came under selling pressure, dropping 27½p to 301½p. Stories in the Square Mile claim the group is about to hit the acquisition trail and has given **SIG Group**, ½p firmer at 140p, the once over. But brokers say Meyer may have to turn to shareholders to raise extra funds.

**First Leisure**, which announced earlier this month that it was in "strategic talks", was sent reeling by news of its profit warning, leaving the shares 22p lower at 192½p. The nightclubs, bars and health and fitness operator headed by Michael Grade blames a downturn in consumer spending for its woes. Last year pretax profits fell from £34.5 million to £33.3 million.

Over in the beerage, **Vaux** shed 13½p at 233½p, despite strong indications that it is close to making an announcement about the future of the two breweries and 350 tenanted pubs it put up for sale in September.

Whispers in the industry suggest that a management buyout team led by Frank Nicholson is in pole position, although City sources are still sceptical over his ability to persuade his backers to stump up the £70 million or so required. If the MBO falls through, the likelihood is that Vaux will sell the Ward's brewery in Sheffield plus 125 pubs to **Mansfield Brewery**, 1p lighter 227½p, retain the remaining 225 pubs in the North East and close its brewery in Sunderland.

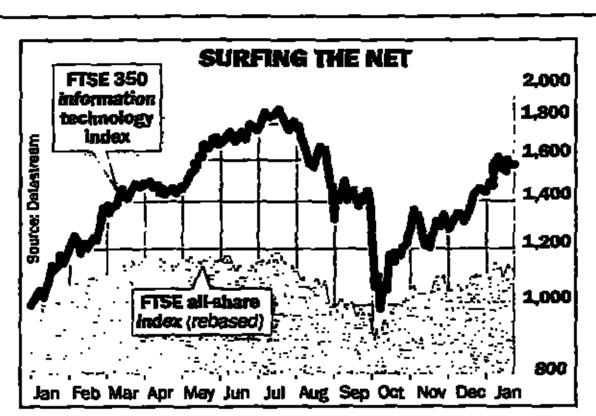
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market is again pinning its hopes on a cut in interest rates next month when the Monetary Policy Committee meets. Investors have shrugged off Monday's unexpected rise in the underlying inflation rate and, instead, concentrated on the weak retail sales and the minutes of the last MPC meeting, showing seven of the nine members voting for a cut in rates.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 22p to £119.53 as a total of 33,000 contracts were completed.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares rallied on strong earnings reports and upbeat comments on the economy from Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 81.62 at 9,436.84.



Michael Grade saw First Leisure shares hit by news of a profit warning. He cited a fall in consumer spending




IT IS certain to end in tears and those small internet companies that have risen the fastest, are likely to be the hardest hit.

Take On-Line, the AIM-listed internet provider. It surged 101p to a new peak of 273½p in a 1,000 share market. The price has come up from the 16½p level in less than ten days.

This clamour for everything internet reflects the sort of ratings being paid in the US. Investors are prepared to discount a lot in this high-tech age. The situation has only been exacerbated by the latest surge in profits at Microsoft.

Other high tech stocks going better included, Easynet Group, up 32p at 243½p, Internet Technology, 42p higher at 141½p and Intelligent Environments, 28½p at 68p with Teather & Greenwood, the company's own broker, pushing the shares.

Companies such as Netcall, up 35p at 85p, are puzzled. It says it knows of no reason for the rise in its share price.

## Major indices

**New York (midday):**
Dow Jones ... 9436.84 (+81.62)
S&P Composite ... 1269.38 (+17.38)

**Tokyo:**
Nikkei Average ... 14028.05 (+257.61)

**Hong Kong:**
Hang Seng ... 10314.91 (+24.80)

**Amsterdam:**
AEX Index ... 554.57 (+5.69)

**Sydney:**
AO ... 3872.7 (+16.5)

**Frankfurt:**
DAX ... 5143.06 (+69.91)

**Singapore:**
Straits ... 1548.27 (+1.17)

**Brussels:**
BEL20 ... 3491.13 (+12.41)

**Paris:**
CAC-40 ... 4184.75 (+68.76)

**Zurich:**
SKA Gen ... 1452.30 (+10.0)

**London:**

| | |
|---|---|
| FT 30 | 3514.2 (+23.7) |
| FTSE 100 | 6105.6 (+78.0) |
| FTSE 250 | 4884.9 (+10.3) |
| FTSE 350 | 2864.2 (+32.1) |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 2831.64 (+39.41) |
| FTSE All-Share | 2760.57 (+29.84) |
| FTSE Non Financials | 2818.17 (+19.40) |
| FTSE Fixed Interest | 157.50 (+0.26) |
| FTSE Govt Secs | 116.39 (+0.26) |
| Bargains | 83519 |
| SEAQ Volume | 1311.6m |
| US$ | 1.6477 (-0.0105) |
| Euro | 0.7022 (+0.0023) |
| Exchange Index | 99.5 (-0.4) |
| Bank of England official close (4pm) | |
| RPI | 164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987=100 |
| RPIX | 162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987=100 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AIM VCT | 100 | | ... |
| Abbey Natl Dublin Inv | 93 | | ... |
| BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap | 97½ | | ... |
| BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc | 120½ | − | 1 |
| Five Arrs Uts Cv Ln 2040 | 106¾ | | ... |
| Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf | 108¾ | + | ¼ |
| Jupiter Enhanced Inc | 96¼ | + | 1½ |
| Singer & Frd AIM VCT | 100 | | ... |
| Virtual Internet | 312½ | + | 1 |
| Willington | 77½ | | ... |
| Yeoman II Equity Units | 99 | + | ½ |
| Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap | 5¼ | | ... |
| Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc | 95¼ | + | ¼ |
| Yeoman II Zero Div Pf | 115½ | + | ½ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| EMAP n/p (875) | 213 | + | 8 |
| Recognition Systems n/p (9) | 7 | + | ¾ |

**RISES:**

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Intelligent Env | 68 | + 28½ | + 72.1 |
| Internet Tech | 141½ | + 42 | + 42.2 |
| Phonelink | 39½ | + 7½ | + 23.4 |
| Adam & Harvey | 142½ | + 25 | + 21.2 |
| Sotheby's | 2387½ | +412½ | + 20.8 |
| JSB Software Tech | 257½ | + 42½ | + 19.7 |
| Rolfe & Nolan | 227½ | + 37½ | + 19.7 |
| Domino | 500 | + 79 | + 18.7 |
| Spring Gp | 170 | + 25½ | + 17.6 |
| Cityview | 28½ | + 4 | + 16.3 |
| Psion | 845 | +118½ | + 16.3 |
| Easynet | 243½ | + 32 | + 15.1 |
| Business Post | 542½ | + 70 | + 14.8 |
| Br Steel | 119 | + 14½ | + 13.8 |
| Dialog | 82½ | + 8½ | + 11.4 |
| Chieftain Gp | 58½ | + 6 | + 11.4 |
| Reuters | 868 | + 88 | + 11.2 |

**FALLS:**

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alldays | 92½ | − 85 | − 47.8 |
| Proteome Scies | 13½ | − 2½ | − 15.6 |
| Mayborn | 47½ | − 7 | − 12.8 |
| Courtaulds Text | 122 | − 14½ | − 10.6 |
| First Leisure | 192½ | − 22 | − 10.2 |
| Wagon | 223½ | − 24 | − 9.6 |
| Cairn Energy | 62 | − 6½ | − 9.4 |
| Aspen Grp | 40 | − 4 | − 9.0 |
| Arjo Wiggins | 99 | − 9½ | − 8.7 |
| Meyer Int | 301½ | − 27½ | − 8.3 |
| Thorntons | 196 | − 17½ | − 8.1 |
| Watts Blake | 445 | − 35 | − 7.2 |
| Superscape VR | 172½ | − 13½ | − 7.2 |
| Orange | 932½ | − 68 | − 6.7 |

# A volatile union

THE past 12 months have been rough for shareholders of Norwich Union. The price has oscillated between £4 and £5 enough times to make investors feel quite queasy. But while the shares have spent the past year energetically going precisely nowhere, shareholders, especially those who bought in or received shares in the demutualisation of 1997, can draw some satisfaction.

First, investors who were given shares or bought for 290p at demutualisation, are sitting on a good capital profit following the performance immediately after flotation. The dividends give an above average income yield, too. Looking forward, Norwich Union has defensive characteristics that will be appreciated by those who share Alan Greenspan's view that the stock market bubble is ready to burst again. Very short term, NU shares are alarmingly volatile, but the stock did not slump with the majority last August.

NU's defensive qualities mean investors will probably have to forgo exciting share price performance, however. The demand for a broad spread of general insurance and investment products will support the company but growth does appear to be slowing, both at NU and across the industry. More pertinently, upstart new entrants are forcing profit margins down. NU looks an increasingly unlikely bid candidate, too.

The shares gained 4 per cent yesterday to close at 486½p on publication of new business figures for past year. The numbers were not spectacular but were at least decent. Third quarter figures published last October were a good deal more depressing.

Continue holding.

## Zergo Holdings

THE INTERNET gold rush continues, although, so far, few have caught sight of gold. Shares in Zergo Holdings, a seller of obscure Internet encryption software (which scrambles data sent over telephone lines) have rocketed from just 139p two weeks ago to 767½p yesterday. Another startler is On-Line, the computer games company, where shares have soared from 12½p to 273½p this year.

The fever is rampant. Although Zergo and On-Line enjoy valuations completely unrelated to their profit performances, they are very different. Zergo signed three impressive deals this week: with Intel, the microchip company, PricewaterhouseCoopers and KPMG. So with e-commerce now catching on, there is clearly a market for Zergo to exploit. Moreover the the US government does not allow its domestic companies to export encryption software because of fears over national security, leaving Europe wide open.

None of this justifies the company's ludicrous share price but it does give some sort of explanation. And at least Zergo has done something. The same cannot be said for the vast majority of "Internet" companies that have seen their shares enter orbit for no better reason than they are able to demonstrate some connection, however, spurious, with the net.

On-Line, according to one analyst "has done absolutely nothing this week. It simply has a fortuitous name and a lot of ignorant investors."

Invest in wheat, not chaff.

'ERE WE ZERGO...
Zergo Holdings
FTSE all-share index (rebased)
800p
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Source: Datastream

## First Leisure

MICHAEL GRADE has been tipped as a successor to Sir John Birt as director general of the BBC, and given his recent fortunes at First Leisure he might have pursued the opportunity with some vigour.

But yesterday, despite a further sharp drop in the share price in response to poor current trading and lack of takeover news, Mr Grade made clear that he is "out of the media business" and "enjoying what I'm doing now".

He reckons he has achieved most of the strategic changes he set out to make when he took the helm at First Leisure 18 months ago. He has sold off mature businesses such as bingo while taking the group into the high-growth health and fitness club businesses. Many of the current woes — notably declining sales in its nightclubs — are a symptom of the general slowdown in consumer spending, not because they are the wrong kinds of business for First Leisure to be in. But the company's lacklustre response to the challenges — in contrast with more nimble-footed rivals like Luminar — is worrying.

Another concern is that if Mr Grade believes he has set the group on the correct strategic path, why is he discussing "strategic initiatives" with third parties?

The shares trade at less than half the level of early last summer but meaningful recovery looks some way off. Bid speculation may buoy the shares, but do not count on a quick deal. At best, hold.

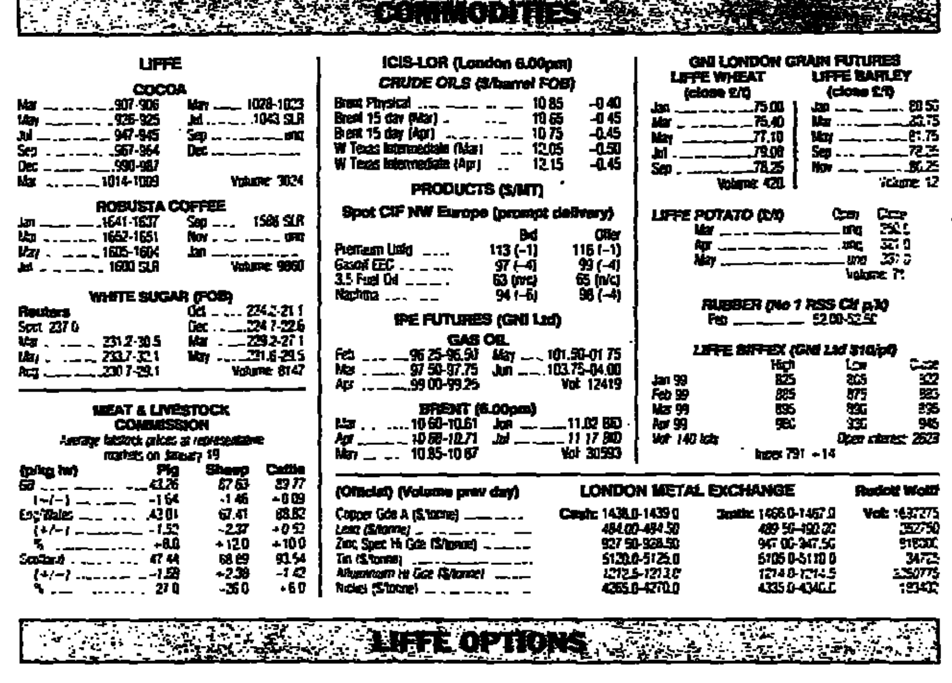
## Field Group

IT LOOKS as if Chesapeake is the only game in town for Field shareholders. Two weeks after saying it had received an approach, and two months after it put out the profits warning that sent the shares crashing, Field management has succombed to interest shown by Chesapeake, an ambitious US paper and packaging outfit. There may be a twinge of regret among some shareholders, unable to share in the promise that Chesapeake sees in Field. But most will be relieved to be given an exit from this unfortunate company. The propsects for paper and packing are dire. Field has added value, added operations supplying good consumer and healthcare clients, but in this market, value added means less than it might. Field was also caught in the small company trap, unable to attract serious investor interest.

We may hear more of Chesapeake, which is to use the Field acqusition as a launchpad for European expansion. Investors in other paper and packing outfits might welcome the approaches, even if the price they get is a relatively measly 13-times expected current year earnings being offered to Field investors.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

## COMMODITIES



## LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

## Financial futures

| | Period | Open | High | Low | Sett | Vol |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Long Gilt** | Mar 99 | 119.10 | 119.70 | 119.06 | 119.53 | 40517 |
| Previous open interest 105832 | Jun 99 | | | | 120.23 | 0 |
| **German Govt Bond (Bund)** | Mar 99 | | | | 117.17 | 0 |
| Previous open interest 0 | | | | | | |
| **Five Year Gilt** | Mar 99 | 108.95 | 108.95 | 108.95 | 109.17 | 1 |
| Previous open interest 63 | Jun 99 | | | | 109.17 | 0 |
| **Italian Govt Bond (BTP)** | Mar 99 | 115.04 | 115.10 | 114.66 | 115.06 | 12270 |
| Previous open interest 42935 | | | | | | |
| **Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)** | Mar 99 | 130.72 | 130.79 | 130.35 | 130.45 | 1496 |
| | Jun 99 | | | | 129.55 | 0 |
| **Three Mth Sterling** | Mar 99 | 94.430 | 94.510 | 94.420 | 94.460 | 39216 |
| | Jun 99 | 94.770 | 94.850 | 94.740 | 94.815 | 51446 |
| Previous open interest 1092164 | Sep 99 | 94.990 | 95.050 | 94.920 | 95.015 | 39184 |
| **Three Mth Euromark** | Apr 99 | | | | 97.045 | 0 |
| Previous open interest 2081364 | Jun 99 | 97.160 | 97.170 | 97.115 | 97.130 | 107669 |
| **Three Mth Eurolira** | Mar 99 | 97.040 | 97.049 | 97.010 | 97.015 | 2075 |
| Previous open interest 480715 | Jun 99 | 97.160 | 97.160 | 97.130 | 97.130 | 939 |
| **Three Mth Euroswiss** | Mar 99 | 98.660 | 98.660 | 98.590 | 98.600 | 20389 |
| Previous open interest 176755 | Jun 99 | 98.550 | 98.550 | 98.490 | 98.500 | 7169 |
| **Three Mth Euro** | Apr 99 | | | | 97.045 | 0 |
| Previous open interest 11295 | Jun 99 | | | | 97.130 | 0 |
| **FTSE 100** | Mar 99 | 6105.0 | 6159.0 | 6065.0 | 6140.0 | 20568 |
| Previous open interest 188912 | Jun 99 | | | | 6181.0 | 0 |

## MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5½, 3 mth 5¼; Sell: 2 mth 5¼, 3 mth 5½

| | 1 mth | 2 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | 12 mth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prime Bank Bills (Dis): | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | |
| Sterling Money Rates: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Interbank: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Overnight: open 5½, close 7½ | | | | | |
| Local Authority Deps: | [illegible] | n/a | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Sterling CDs: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Dollar CDs: | n/a | n/a | 4.88 | 4.87 | n/a |
| Building Society CDs: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

## Euro money deposits

| Currency | 1 mth | 3 mth | 6 mth | 12 mth | Call |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dollar: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Sterling: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Euro: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 3ds-3pr |
| Yen: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1-par |
| Canada: | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

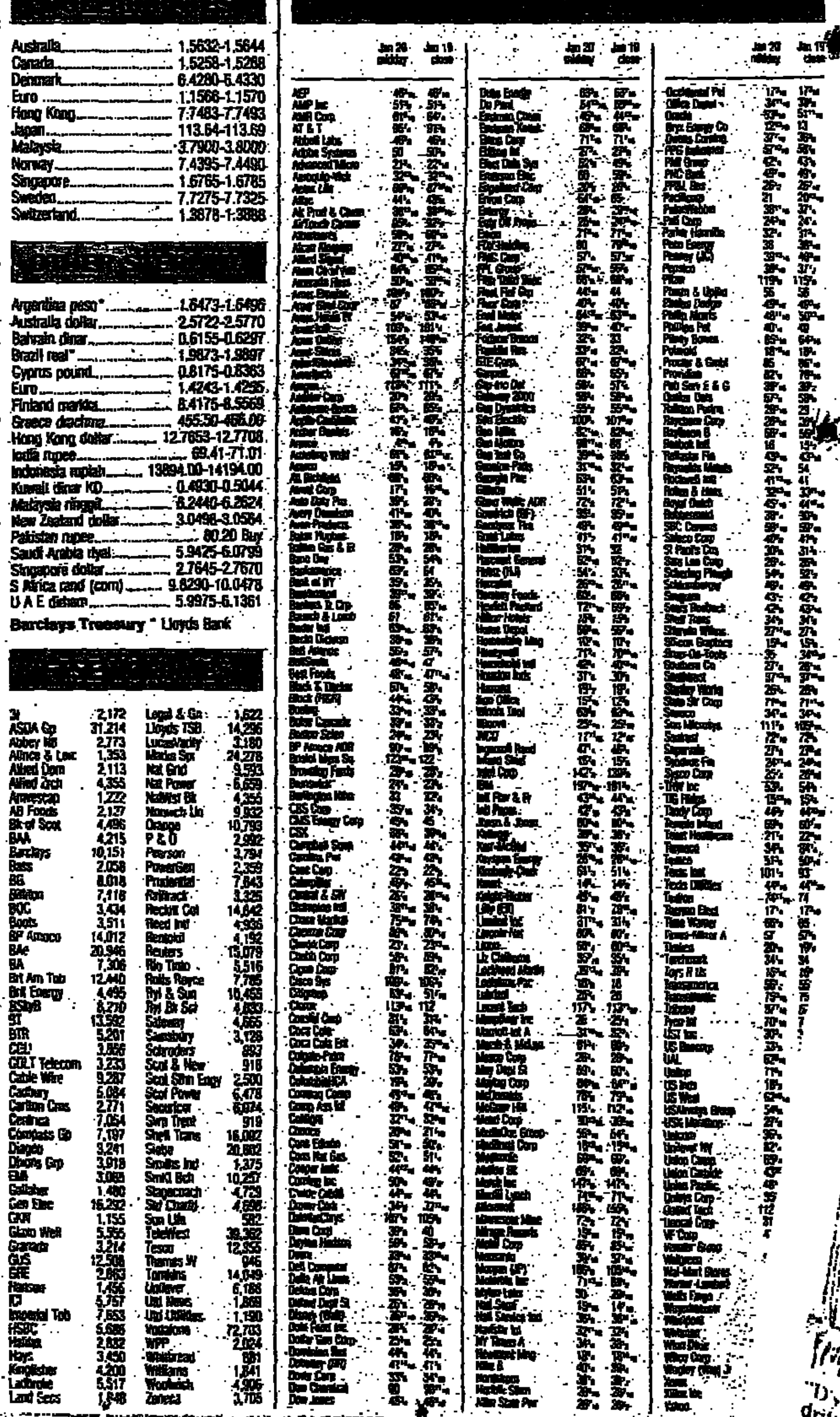
## Gold

Bullion: Open: $286.50-286.90 Close: $285.90-286.40 High: $286.50-287.00
Low: $285.60-286.10 AM: $285.90 PM: $286.00
Krugerrand: $287.00-289.00 (£174.00-176.00)
Platinum: $353.50 (£214.60) Silver: $5.165 (£3.125) Palladium: $321.50 (£195.15)

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

| Mid Rates for January 20 | Range | Close | 1 month | 3 Month |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Copenhagen | 10.585-10.636 | 10.585-10.598 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Euro | 1.4228-1.4248 | 1.4231-1.4244 | 0.16-0.19ds | 0.44-0.48ds |
| Montreal | 2.5104-2.5281 | 2.5117-2.5145 | 0.22-0.15pr | 0.45-0.32pr |
| New York | 1.6466-1.6534 | 1.6470-1.6478 | 0.153-0.132pr | 0.31-0.28pr |
| Oslo | 12.214-12.329 | 12.214-12.228 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Stockholm | 12.726-12.815 | 12.726-12.740 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Tokyo | 186.90-187.63 | 186.90-187.07 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Zurich | 2.2811-2.2886 | 2.2854-2.2881 | [illegible] | [illegible] |

Source: Exel    Premium = pr    Discount = ds



## Dollar spot rates

| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | 1.5632-1.5644 |
| Canada | 1.5258-1.5268 |
| Denmark | 6.4280-6.4330 |
| Euro | 1.1566-1.1570 |
| Hong Kong | 7.7483-7.7493 |
| Japan | 113.64-113.69 |
| Malaysia | 3.7900-3.8000 |
| Norway | 7.4395-7.4490 |
| Singapore | 1.6765-1.6785 |
| Sweden | 7.7275-7.7325 |
| Switzerland | 1.3878-1.3888 |

## Other sterling

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina peso* | 1.6473-1.6496 |
| Australia dollar | 2.5722-2.5770 |
| Bahrain dinar | 0.6155-0.6297 |
| Brazil real* | 1.9873-1.9897 |
| Cyprus pound | 0.8175-0.8363 |
| Euro | 1.4243-1.4255 |
| Finland markka | 8.4175-8.5569 |
| Greece drachma | 455.30-466.00 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 12.7653-12.7708 |
| India rupee | 69.41-71.01 |
| Indonesia rupiah | 13894.00-14194.00 |
| Kuwait dinar KD | 0.4930-0.5044 |
| Malaysia ringgit | 6.2440-6.2524 |
| New Zealand dollar | 3.0498-3.0564 |
| Pakistan rupee | 80.20 Buy |
| Saudi Arabia riyal | 5.9425-6.0799 |
| Singapore dollar | 2.7645-2.7670 |
| S Africa rand (com) | 9.8290-10.0478 |
| U A E dirham | 5.9975-6.1361 |

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

## Traded options volumes

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3i | 2,172 | Legal & Gn | 1,622 |
| ASDA Gp | 31,214 | Lloyds TSB | 14,296 |
| Abbey Nt | 2,773 | LucasVarity | 3,180 |
| Allnce & Leic | 1,353 | Marks Spr | 24,278 |
| Allied Dom | 2,113 | Nat Grid | 9,593 |
| Allied Zrch | 4,355 | Nat Power | 5,659 |
| Amvescap | 1,222 | NatWst Bk | 4,355 |
| AB Foods | 2,127 | Norwich Un | 9,932 |
| Bk of Scot | 4,496 | Orange | 10,793 |
| BAA | 4,215 | P & O | 2,982 |
| Barclays | 10,151 | Pearson | 3,794 |
| Bass | 2,058 | PowerGen | 2,359 |
| BG | 8,018 | Prudential | 7,843 |

[illegible]

## US share prices

[illegible]

# The romance of industry returns



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Something exciting is happening in British business. Instead of looking inwards and continually shooting ourselves in the foot, we are occasionally taking the initiative.

This week, given a favourable regulatory wind, a British company will have laid the foundation for a brand new, UK-based global telecoms corporation. Vodafone, the youngster that mushroomed in the shadow of British Telecom and Cable & Wireless, will have leapfrogged them to become the UK's third most valuable company. Not for long, given the pace of change.

If the Government fails to wreck things, which is admittedly an outside bet, we will also have the nucleus of a British global defence corporation by merging British Aerospace and Marconi. BP's takeover of Amoco re-established our oil champion in the global league.

Industry has been in ferment for a while, but not many outside the financial world have noticed. At last, these high profile deals should make ordinary intelligent people think that something pretty exciting is happening. It is vital for our future that they do.

Once upon a time, industry provided many of the most challenging and rewarding careers for graduates and clever school-leavers. Posh dunces, members of family firms and the bright but unqualified went into the City. That started changing in the early 1960s. The civil service shone. Increasingly, so did accountancy, law and merchant banks. That was where things were starting to happen and where money was to be made.

Even in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Lord Weinstock's GEC, among others, inspired the most able and ambitious. Careers with ICI, Shell, BP or Unilever still attracted many top non-science graduates. Gradually, it all went sour.

The decline of manufacturing, symbolised by strike warfare, the tragedy of British Leyland and the long downward spiral of textiles and heavy engineering, made industry seem more like the mud of Flanders than an attractive place to make a career. Engineers were despised; managing a factory earned a pittance far outweighed by the hassle. Social cachet? Forget it. To make things worse the 1980s and early 1990s saw middle managers rationalised to the dole queue in tumbril-loads.

Market forces work. So industry became as cool as Hell. The top international accountancy firms vacuumed up a huge proportion of able level-headed graduates. The City in its various forms lured those who hankered for excitement and money. Merchant banks were *de rigueur* for aspiring Tory politicians. The broadcast media and PR became the magnet for those of more liberal bent or those who preferred fame to fortune. With luck they could have both. Those unfashionable folk who still chose to work in industry could be patronised by such smart folk. The greatest irony of all, perhaps, was that people who were abysmally paid in comparison with media and City stars were additionally attacked for earning "fat-cat" pay.

Aside from relative frugality, the only thing remarkable about the average top manager's pay was that it was publicly revealed for all to see, by law. The far larger sums earned for cushier careers in the professions and the screen world remained secret. No wonder the country has so few top businessmen and women that the same unremarkable names crop up for all the available slots and often fail by stretching their talent too thinly.

Some of our ablest people still went into industry. Often they were scientists who had little other option outside academic life. No wonder groups such as Glaxo Wellcome have been shining stars in a dull sky and that so many of our entrepreneurial success stories are in electronics and bioscience. If more of our ambitious achievers went into industry, there would be many more success stories.

Global restructuring should be the catalyst to change our culture away the cults of town fashion and ignorance. This is not a management consultant's concept. It is happening now, on a grand scale, creating large numbers of global companies in a host of industries and and changing business for ever. Stuck outside euroland, Britain must try twice as hard to make the best of the process.

We should consciously aim, with the Government, to have a hundred British multinationals, including a couple in Wales and half a dozen in Scotland. That means companies that have either UK financial control or none; that have business as well as corporate headquarters here; and that use English as their working language.

In other respects, the new multinationals will mostly be different from the old, drawing their managers as well as their shareholders indiscriminately from across Europe and further afield. They will be spearheads of a new multinationalism. The new defence grouping growing from British Aerospace and Marconi must be one of these.

For those seeking adventure, many more exciting careers will open up, comparable to the exploration and conquest that inspired earlier generations and that fire oil executives today. The romance of industry is returning. But such lives are tough and globetrotting managers will burn out almost as fast as City traders. In the new global corporation, in the age of Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, retirement at 50 will be the norm.

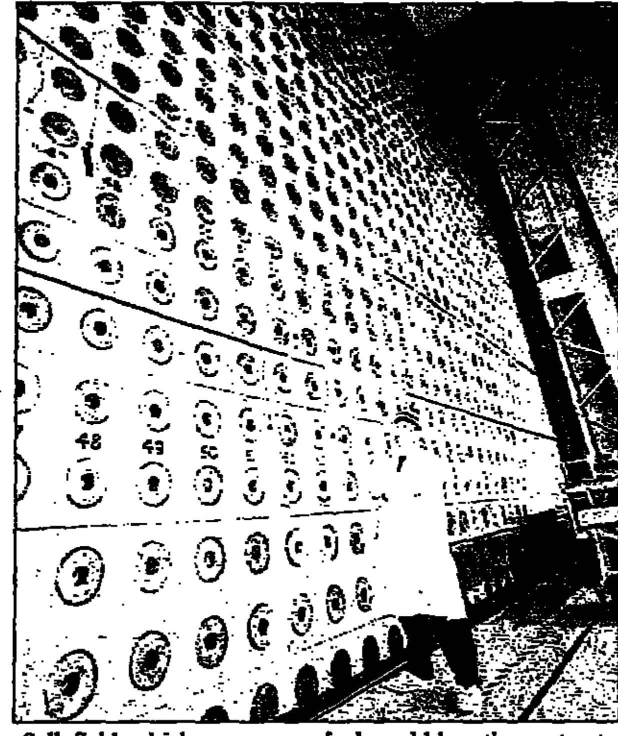
Sadly, our public life is still myopic and inward-looking. Without government benevolence, rather than the consumer bias promised by Mr Blair, and real industrial vision instead of petty ideas, Britain will lose out. Outside City finance, our business will become branch offices and our managers stagnate as provincials in a global era.

We cannot afford to let the opportunities of the next years slip.





Jürgen Trittin was in London trying to sort out the row with UK ministers. It was his second diplomatic mission in a week



Sellafield, which reprocesses fuel, could lose the contract

# Germans spark row over nuclear stance

## Schröder's decision to go green has serious repercussions for the UK, says Sigrid Aufterbeck

Nuclear energy is a pretty emotive topic. We all want cheap electricity but many of us are worried about how it is produced. We want to cut emissions from coal-burning power stations, but are we willing to see miners thrown out of work? We are worried about gas-burning stations but are we willing to turn to nuclear electricity? And if we are willing to turn to nuclear electricity, are we willing to have the reprocessing of the used fuel on our doorstep?

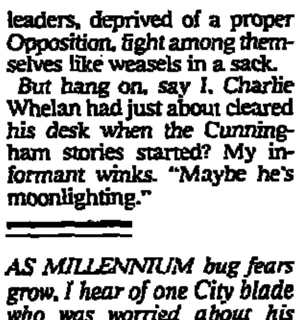
Germany's decision to go green and phase out nuclear energy — which produces a third of the country's electricity — is controversial even within Germany. But with the Green Party in Gerhard Schröder's Government, there is a mandate for it. However, the decision by Germany to stop sending its used nuclear fuel abroad for reprocessing has caused an international storm which was blowing through Whitehall yesterday. At issue is a £1.2 billion contract that Germany has with BNFL for the state-run utility to reprocess the fuel at the controversial Thorpe plant at Sellafield in Cumbria.

Germany says it is cancelling the contract, arguing that there is a *force majeure* because of the new Government elected last September. If the contract is lost, jobs are almost certain to follow, though BNFL denies this. Germany accounts for more than a tenth of Thorpe's turnover. It is also cancelling contracts in France where the state reprocessing company, Cogema, said the loss of the work will cost it over €4.5 billion (£3.2 billion).

Yesterday Jürgen Trittin, the Greens' German Environment Secretary, was in London to try to pour oil on the troubled waters, as it were. He met Stephen Byers, the new Trade and Industry Secretary, and Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister. It is the height of irony that Meacher, who is as green as they come within the pale pink of new Labour, was trying to persuade Germany to carry on sending dangerous nuclear waste to the UK.

It was Trittin's second diplomatic mission in a week, having gone cap in hand to Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister. That trip looks like yielding a deal, with Germany ready to pay compensation, though Trittin is anxious to sort out the BNFL issue before settling with France. Byers has been taking a hard line with Trittin, backing BNFL. "It is clear that there are binding contracts between UK and German companies and letters between UK and German governments containing commitments which we expect to be honoured," a spokesman at his office said. Last night it seemed that a similar compromise might be reached.

The German Government, by deciding to ban reprocessing abroad, not only risks a rift with Britain and France, but also with an outraged domestic industry. Germany will have to take back contaminated fuel from abroad and store it in facilities it has yet to build. Two of Schröder's allies, state premiers Wolfgang Clement and Gerhard Glokowsky, have attacked the move. The number of nuclear transports is likely to increase, which will inevitably evoke anti-nuclear protest. It was these protests that in the late 1980s made it impossible for the German Government to install its own reprocessing plant in Germany and chose to have it recycled abroad.



Meacher: involved in talks



Strauss-Kahn: deal likely

The German nuclear industry is once more disillusioned by Schröder. The German energy giants — the likes of Veba, RWE and Viag — voiced their anger last week when hearing about Trittin's plans. Feelings of betrayal were even stronger since Schröder had promised to involve industry in the process of nuclear decommissioning. They demanded a new, long-term scenario for ending nuclear energy. Ulrich Hartmann, head of Veba, said that experience had shown that planning and building storages close to the plants, as the new Government demands, would take four or even six years.

The next round of "consensus talks" between industry and Government is scheduled for next Tuesday, but Schröder is due to meet the leaders of RWE, Veba, Viag and Energie Baden-Württemberg the day before. It looks like the solution could again be money driven, with Economics Minister Werner Müller handing out tax concessions.

Britain and France, meanwhile, might as well make the most of it. Trittin and Schröder, in need of finding cheap solutions soon, might be willing to adopt an equally hypocritical policy as the previous Government did in the late 1980s. When the Kohl Government found it politically impossible to open its own reprocessing plant in Germany, it outsourced reprocessing to Britain and France. Germany might be equally willing to buy cheap electricity from its neighbours — much of it produced in nuclear plants. Critics argue that all that will happen is that 19 of the safest and up-to-date nuclear plants in Europe will be closed, and German scientific research will leave the field whereas 200 less secure plants will continue to run on the same planet.

But at least Trittin and Schröder do have supporters within British environmental groups. Martin Forewood, spokesman of Cumbria Opposed to a Radioactive Environment, said: "This sensible decision by Germany heralds a new and better future."

*Additional reporting by Nick Nuttall and Roger Boyes*

# Information barriers set to collapse




The £67 billion merger of Vodafone and AirTouch this week was a reminder of just how successful mobile phone companies have been over the past five years in changing our lives. Yet the mobile phone revolution is far from over, and businesses face yet another technological upheaval as new services are introduced.

By late spring, Vodafone AirTouch — alongside several other telecoms and media companies — will begin bidding for the next set of mobile phone licences in an auction that, it is estimated, will raise more than £1 billion for the Government. With the licences will come UMTS (universal mobile telecommunications system), a technology standard that will allow mobile phones to send and receive data at many times the speed of Internet connections today.

Business people will be able to conduct video conferences using mobile phone handsets, and access the Internet, or their corporate intranet, on the move. The quality of calls made on mobile networks will also improve dramatically.

Experts predict that when this happens the difference between fixed-line and mobile telephones will all but disappear. Handsets will probably be able to switch easily to a land line when they are within an office, and a mobile line when they are out in the open air.

Executives at companies such as Cisco Systems, the US Internet company, also suggest that in five years, the enormous demand for data services will mean that all voice calls are free. Even BT is looking at ways of charging for telephone calls according to how much information is downloaded instead of according to how much time is spent online. This would, in effect, make all voice calls free given how little bandwidth they require.

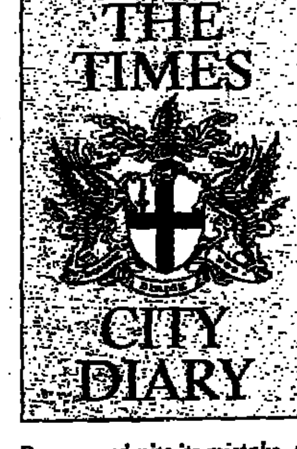
It is also hoped that UMTS licences will end the incompatibility between US and European mobile phone networks.

For businesses outside the telecoms industry, the implications of UMTS are still some way off, and many analysts believe such services will not be introduced until 2002. But when they are, nearly all barriers to the immediate distribution of information will be pulled down.

☐ AN ONLINE system for distributing library music to broadcasters, producers and advertisers was launched this week by Multimedia Archive & Retrieval Systems (Mars), a UK company backed by 3i, the venture capitalist group.

☐ INTERNET retailers may have enjoyed a bumper Christmas, but a survey by Jupiter Communications and NFO Interactive, out this week, shows that one in four people who bought goods online was dissatisfied with the experience.

CHRIS AYRES




# Cash back

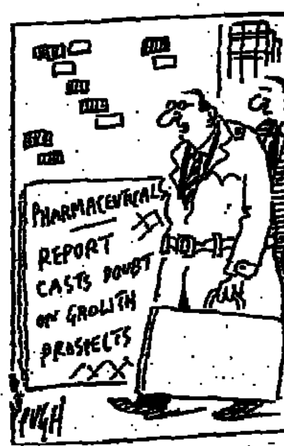
OPPORTUNITY calls again for Paul Bradshaw, serial insurance entrepreneur, who is heading back to J Rothschild Assurance, part of Sir Mark Weinberg's St James's Place Capital. Under a deal of mind-boggling complexity, he will be chief executive of J Rothschild International, which sells offshore and European policies.

Bradshaw, who earlier set up Skandia's UK operation, helped to found JRI in 1992 but ended up at Scottish Amicable when the latter took over the running of the business. He was to be chief executive of ScotAm, and share in the heavily criticised incentive plan directors would have enjoyed, but this was stopped when Prudential stepped in to buy the insurer in 1997.

Trust me, this is the simplified version. An equally complex arrangement allows him to buy 5 per cent of the overseas operations and sell this back to St James's in five to seven years' time, keeping any increase in value.

How might this compare with the ScotAm windfall, then? "I really haven't done that comparison and I really don't want to get into a discussion on the past," he says, a touch frostily.

Of course. This is the man who told a colleague, as that incentive scheme went overboard: "I'm from an entrepreneurial background — an extra million or two isn't that important to me."




"D'you worry your kids might drift into the drug industry?"

*A READER wonders whether the Inland Revenue, which has admitted sending out 800,000 inaccurate statements of account, can be trusted to calculate anyone's tax affairs.*

*On page seven of this year's publication* Understanding Your Tax Code, *the sum of £15,820 is divided by 12 to equal £1,560. (Wrong). The Revenue admits its mistake. A message has gone to all tax offices, and meanwhile, another edition is being printed. I get the impression they were hoping no one would notice.*

## Brown nose

I HEAR an intriguing suggestion about the source of all those stories concerning Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer, and his love of expensive Brussels hotels. I wrote the other day that his job was always going to make him enemies. In response I am pointed towards one in particular — Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and his office.

Cunningham is a Blair man, of course. And you are either for Blair or for Brown in this administration. Thus do our leaders, deprived of a proper Opposition, fight among themselves like weasels in a sack.

But hang on, say I. Charlie Whelan had just about cleared his desk when the Cunningham stories started? My informant winks. "Maybe he's moonlighting."

*AS MILLENNIUM bug fears grow, I hear of one City blade who was worried about his top-of-the-range BMW. (As you know, the average family saloon has more computing power in it than the first successful Moon flight).*

*He approached the dealer for advice. Switch on the motor a couple of minutes before midnight, New Year's Eve, he was told, and keep it running until the new century is born. No, I have no idea if it will work.*

## On a wing

SOMEONE clearly has it in for Robert Ayling, BA's chief executive. Even *The Economist* has rubbished his "belligerent management style", saying BA now offers "service with a sneer".

It is just like a similar campaign against Richard Branson a while back with seemingly co-ordinated attacks in *The Spectator* and, yes, *The Economist*. You don't think . . . Anyway, Ayling has taken measures to prevent any further disasters such as the infamous ethnic tailfins. BA has quietly created a campaigns team to deal with long-term issues such as the millennium bug and Terminal 5.

The job of running the four-strong team is advertised in *BA News* but may have to be an external appointment. The ad talks about "achieving maximum, non-paid for, good publicity", which all sounds rather sinister. And my insider at BA calls them "Bob's KGB".

"I haven't heard of them referred to in that light before — that isn't the role," says a shocked BA spokesman. I suggest Charlie Whelan for the post but I fear BA no longer takes me seriously.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



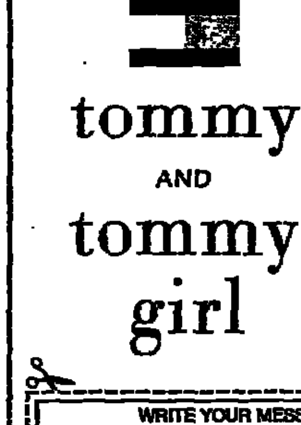
Ayling: found his style of management rubbished

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRESENTS

Valentine's Day

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



tommy AND tommy girl

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# Growth in drugs firms to fall short of forecasts

By Paul Durman

THE growth of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, highly prized by institutional investors, will fall far short of market expectations, according to new analysis by the Boston Consulting Group.

An inability to raise prices and patent expiries on an "unprecedented" number of big-selling drugs will reduce the annual earnings growth of the top 20 companies to a maximum of 7.7 per cent, BCG believes. Investment analysts are forecasting that earnings will grow at 13 per cent, even faster than the 11 per cent achieved in the more favourable conditions of the past five years.

The BCG report says that patent expiries mean that "the average top company should expect to lose roughly 30 per cent of 1997 sales to generics over the next five years".

The consultants argue that scientific advances will reduce the number of "blockbuster" drugs — the $1 billion a year medicines that are the industry's Holy Grail. Increased understanding of genomics will allow drugs to be targeted at particular genetic groups.

Peter Goldsborough, a senior vice-president in BCG's healthcare practice, said: "Drugs will be developed for genetically distinct sub-populations rather than for entire populations. Blockbuster drugs will become less likely, less frequent than they have been in the past. Pharma companies will redouble their efforts to really find those drugs that have the potential to become blockbusters."

The report says the looming earnings gap will encourage more companies to merge to strengthen their product pipeline and their research operations. BCG expects the leading companies to turn increasingly to the biotechnology industry as a source of new products.

"Already, drugs licensed from biotechs and other external sources represent roughly 35 per cent of the existing pipeline in the average top pharmaceutical company. There is potential, however, for even more in-licensing."

BCG also urges simultaneous global launches and improved life-cycle management to wring the full benefit from promising medicines.

The firm believes the industry will have to become much more responsive to consumer demands, as the Internet enables patients to become better informed about available treatments.

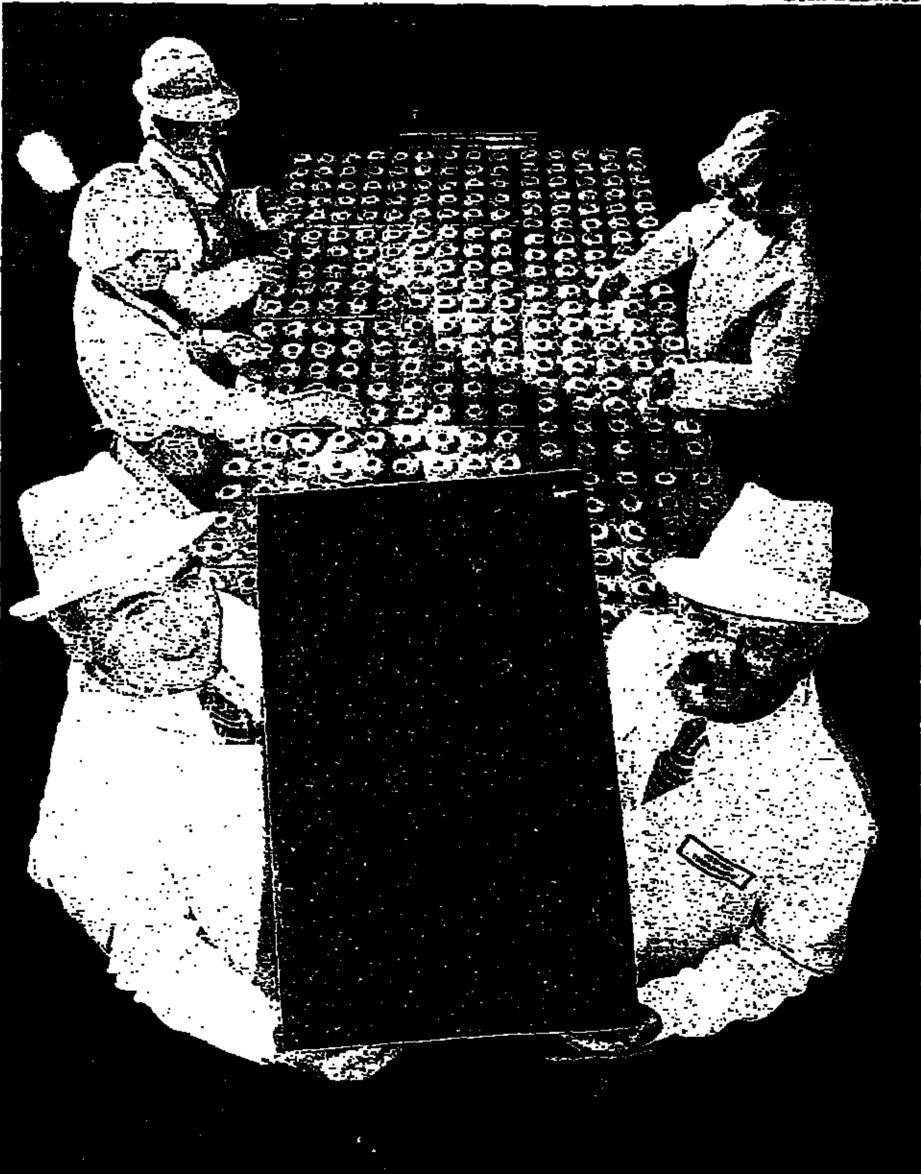
☐ *The Pharmaceutical Industry in its Second Century: From Serendipity to Strategy, The Boston Consulting Group.*

## Portman rejects Hardern

PORTMAN Building Society has become the latest mutual to fend off the advances of Michael Hardern, the freelance butler who is campaigning to force societies to convert to banks and distribute free shares to members (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Portman said Mr Hardern's nomination to the board and his proposed conversion resolution had been ruled invalid under the so-called "Hickmott" ruling, which bans attempts to interfere in the directors' right to manage the affairs of a building society.

Mr Hardern suffered a similar rejection from Yorkshire Building Society on Tuesday, while on Monday, Britannia quashed his resolution but allowed him to stand for the board.


BARRY GREENWOOD

Cherry picking: John Cummings, left, and Alwin Thompson, joint managing directors of Inter Link Foods, the cake and pastry company, yesterday announced the first results since flotation on AIM in August. The group showed a pre-tax profit of £270,000 for the six months to October 31, up from £202,000 last time, and earnings were 5.6p a share (5p). No dividend was offered.

# DaimlerChrysler on the road with £49bn giant

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

DAIMLERCHRYSLER, the US/German motor group, has launched a global financial services business with a portfolio of $81 billion (£49 billion). It will rank fourth among non-bank financial services groups, including giants such as GE Capital.

The new business will be formed from merging the leasing and financing arms of Chrysler Financial Company and Mercedes Benz Credit Corporation into a single operation within DaimlerChrysler Services, known as debis, and with its headquarters in Berlin.

DaimlerChrysler said yesterday that debis would have annual revenues of $10 billion.

The core of the business will be automotive financing and leasing. Chrysler's financial services business grew out of Chrysler Credit Corporation, which was created in 1964 to provide loans to Chrysler's customers and dealer network, later expanding into tax-leveraged leasing and real estate finance.

However, debis is also establishing a Capital Services unit, based in Norwalk, Connecticut, which will expand the non-automotive leasing business.

This will include activities such as ship financing, aircraft leasing as well as structuring complex financings and fund packages.

DaimlerChrysler also revealed plans yesterday to buy out the half share in Adtranz, owned by ABB, for $472 million. Adtranz is a rolling stock manufacturer, making locomotives, high-speed trains and underground trains as well as signal and traffic control systems. Adtranz had revenues in 1997 of $3.7 billion.

# Nordic telecom duo plan merger

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

SWEDEN and Norway have agreed to merge their telephone companies, Telia and Telenor, in a pact aimed at creating a Nordic telecoms champion capable of defending its position against the threat from telecoms industry giants.

The two governments have agreed that a merged Nordic phone company would be floated on the stock market as soon as possible. Sweden's Telia would account for 60 per cent with Norway's Telenor taking 40 per cent.

However, both governments have agreed to reduce their respective stakes to 33.4 per cent in the flotation, leaving the public with 33.2 per cent.

Tormod Hermansen, chief executive of Telenor, who will be chief executive of the merged group, said: "We will create a Nordic flagship in the telecommunications and IT Industry. We are world-class contenders in important areas such as mobile, Internet and satellite services."

The move is also being seen as an opportunity to cut costs by removing the frontier between their operations and eliminating duplication. The combined workforce totals 51,000 and conservative estimates suggest a reduction of 5 per cent is on the cards.

Sweden and Norway have achieved a market penetration in mobile phones of 44 and 46 per cent respectively. That compares with about 20 per cent in the UK.

According to HSBC, which is advising Telenor, the move is also a response to the pace of change in the Telecoms sector. Its close neighbour, TeleDanmark, has recently agreed a partnership deal with Ameritech, the US company.

The two companies have combined revenues of Skr 80 billion (£6.2 billion) and operating profit of SEK 13 billion.

The merged group, which has yet to choose a name will be led by Jan Stenberg as chairman who is managing director of SAS, the airline group, another cross-border Nordic business.

## Nomura fined for racketeer payoffs

A JAPANESE court yesterday fined Nomura Securities Y100 million (£536,000) and sentenced former top company officials to suspended prison terms for making illegal payoffs to a racketeer. The Tokyo District Court sentenced former Nomura president Hideo Sakamaki, 63, and former managing director Nobutaka Fujikura, 56, to one-year prison terms, suspended for three years. The court also sentenced Shimpei Matsuki, 54, Nomura's former managing director, to an eight-month prison term, suspended for three years.

In yesterday's ruling, Judge Yuichi Okada said that the three former Nomura officials authorised payments totalling Y49.73 million between January and June 1995 to Ryuichi Koike, the racketeer, in exchange for his promise not to disrupt the company's shareholders' meeting. The ruling said that Sakamaki and Fujikura also paid an additional Y320 million in cash to Koike at the company's head office in Tokyo in March 1995.

## AlliedSignal advances

ALLIEDSIGNAL, the US industrial components manufacturer, yesterday reported that fourth-quarter earnings per share jumped 15 per cent, meeting Wall Street expectations, and predicted earnings per share will rise at least 13 per cent in 1999, after 28 straight quarters of at least 14 per cent growth. The company, which last year mounted an unsuccessful $10 billion (£6 billion) bid for AMP, the electrical connector maker, posted fourth-quarter net income of $352 million, or 62 cents per share, a record. The previous year it earned $310 million, or 54 cents per share.

## ICS back in profit

INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SERVICES, the control and safety systems group, has returned to profitability. Exceptional charges related to the sale of Brisco, its loss-making subsidiary, caused ICS to post a pre-tax loss of £3.9 million for the six months to November 30, an improvement on the £27.4 million loss for the same period last year, on sales up to £41.2 million (£37 million). Loss per share was 2.3p (49.79p). No interim dividend was declared. Trevor Wheatley, chairman, said: "The group is well placed to make satisfactory progress in the full year, which could enable a return to the dividend list."

## Flair sale hits Adscene

ADSCENE, the local newspaper and publishing group, saw first-half results hit by a £5.4 million charge from the disposal of Flair, its commercial printing business. Pre-tax loss for the six months to November 28 was £3 million, against a £2.9 million profit last time, on a turnover of £26.2 million (£26.9 million). The exceptionals led to a loss per share of 19.47p (earnings of 6.45p), but the interim dividend of 3.5p was maintained. David Fordham, chief executive, said: "The prospects for the group have been significantly improved following the disposal of Flair." Shares were down 3p to 162½p.

## French boost at C&F

COLEFAX & FOWLER, the household goods group, lifted pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £1.7 million for the six months to October 31, up from £1.4 million last time. Sales were boosted by the acquisition of Manuel Canovas, a French fabric company, to £31.2 million (£24.1 million). Earnings per share were 4.23p (3.91p) and an interim dividend of 1.17p was offered (1.1p). David Green, chairman, said that market conditions in the US and Europe were "positive", but that the UK "is weak at present".

ACCOUNTANCY

# Spare us rule by quango

### The DTI must not hand regulation of accountants to unaccountable outsiders, says Stella Fearnley

The DTI issued its Green Paper, *A Framework for Independent Regulation of the Accountancy Profession*, with a statement by Ian McCartney, the minister, that if the proposed new system did not deliver independence, transparency and effectiveness, statutory regulation would follow.

Proposals for changes to the existing regulatory framework had been put to the DTI by the accountancy bodies, under the chairmanship of Chris Swinson. He recommends establishment of an independent foundation, funded by the professional bodies. It would own and make appointments to the Auditing Practices Board (APB), the Investigation and Discipline Board (IDB), a successor to the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, and a new review board responsible for independent oversight of the APB and the IDB. It would also oversee regulatory and disciplinary processes managed by the professional bodies themselves, including an Ethics Standards Board (ESB).

Swinson proposes that the foundation should have no accountant members and the review board only one. Lay representation on the other boards is recommended, but proportions are not given. The Minister has changed these proposals. The Green Paper puts the ESB in foundation ownership. It demands that 60 per cent of IDB and ESB members be non-accountants, that 60 per cent of APB members be non-auditors and that the accountant on the review board be a non-practitioner. The effect of the Minister's changes is that accountancy bodies will have limited input into, and no control over, activities of the key subsidiary boards. Anyone knowing the dynamics of regulation will see that the changes make the system hard to operate.

Professional bodies like to regulate themselves because of the power and status derived. They argue that practitioner-led regulation is most effective because practitioners have full understanding of the areas regulated. But self-regulatory bodies are always accused of acting in the interests of members rather than the public.

The State wields power over self-regulatory bodies with threats to end self-regulation. The alternative of State regulation, much favoured by the Left, is not necessarily better for consumers. State regulation can be costly, bureaucratic, lacking in practical expertise and inflexible. Another danger is political interference. Taking direct responsibility for regulation is a high-risk strategy for a government department because there is no one else to blame if things go wrong, and a vital attribute of any regulatory system is that it must be respected by the regulatory constituency, because mass non-compliance undermines a regulator's authority.

What the Green Paper proposes is neither fish nor fowl. It is a quango with no legal authority, owned neither by the State nor the professional bodies, with subsidiary boards expected to pronounce on complex, technical issues, but controlled by people who, by definition, have insufficient understanding of them. The Accounting Standards Board and the Financial Reporting Review Panel (bodies with some statutory support) have won respect for their technical output. This could not have been done if they were overloaded with lay members. Lay members are essential to ensure fair play, but my experience on the ICAEW Investigation Committee is that their contribution can be dangerously limited by lack of technical understanding.



Stella Fearnley sees dangers in Green Paper proposals

Swinson's proposals are wiser than the DTI may think. By keeping substantial involvement from the profession, with independent oversight, the profession could be blamed if the new system fails. By altering the balance, the minister cannot hold the profession responsible for failure, and puts himself in the line of fire. The professional bodies may even wash their hands of it, landing the DTI with a complex regulatory role that it may not want, particularly as the Financial Services Authority has yet to prove itself.

Swinson had a chance of balancing independence, transparency and effectiveness, and the professional bodies backed the proposals. The changes have prejudiced the system's chances of effectiveness and its support from its constituency.

With such problems at the outset, who will want to serve on these bodies, let alone chair them? Perhaps the minister should think again and leave the profession responsible for making this system work in the first instance. He can change it if they fail, and retain his big stick to beat them.

*The author, a principal lecturer in accounting at Portsmouth Business School, is on the Council of the ICAEW*

# Why accountants are changing their style

Nobody can ever accuse academics of not changing their minds. Back in 1994, Mike Power, who is Professor of Accounting at the London School of Economics, wrote a pamphlet for Demos, the think-tank, entitled *The Audit Explosion*. Now he has come up with another one, given as the inaugural Chartered Accountants' Trustees annual lecture. This one is called *The Audit Implosion*. The ordinary laws of physics obviously do not apply to accountants.

What has happened is simple. In the last few years, auditors have decided that the old financial audit is on its way out. So, instead, they have been piling into all sorts of other services, from risk management to outsourcing, and making sure that they don't call them anything like "audit". In fact, in accounting firms these days, audit has become almost a taboo word. People pull themselves up to their full height, flex their braces and tell you rather smugly that what they are providing these days is business assurance services.

As Power will point out to you, the accounting firms are doing what any adept business organisation does when it sees its markets changing. "They are reinventing new markets for existing forms of expertise", is how he puts it. This also means a decline in accountants. Inevitably the proportion of purely trained accountants in the large firms goes down and, at the same time, the number of people with a background in what you could loosely call human resources goes up. This is not necessarily a good thing.

And there are inevitable effects on the way companies organise themselves as a result. The effect of corporate governance codes has probably done as much as anything to bring about this change.

On the surface, such emphasis on corporate governance should have strengthened the position of financial audit. "However," suggests Power, "on closer examination it is operating more as a Trojan horse to challenge the external financial audit practice. On the back of its recommendations, new potential markets for advice have been created, supported by an endless stream of professional conferences."

What has happened, he suggests, is that the regulation has switched its focus. What used to be external is now internal. "The development of voluntary codes of practice marks out the inside of organisations as a regulatory space," he says. So, a huge battle develops as internal auditors expand their role, and other disciplines within a company, such as human resources, for example, try to muscle in on the work.

Part of this has also come about as a result of the fear of litigation that hangs over audit firms. Power looks at the document on how auditors should go about providing assurance on internal control that the Auditing Practices Board published last year. "Two things are striking," he points out. "Firstly, the level of caution and caveats about determining the scope of an assignment and giving an opinion make one wonder whether accountants can ever give a professional opinion on anything and whether the fear of litigation is stultifying expertise." The second feature he points to is "a further, though by no means unique characterisation of the audit implosion: the flight from public professional opinion".

He suggests that a combination of fear of litigation, the switch into new services, and the emphasis on corporate governance has brought about an important transition "from the financial audit process to the reform of the internal structure and process of organisations: from external auditing to installing a self- auditing capacity".

ROBERT BRUCE

The result of this is that what used to be simply a part of the planning of an audit, assessing where the risk lay within the client's systems, becomes a product in itself. And that has profound implications for the whole idea of auditor independence.

If risk can be assessed and much of the regulation of the risks is either carried on in-house or is out-sourced, then independence becomes less important. This again aids the auditors. It is much easier to sell a service to a friendly client than to someone you, theoretically, have to stand toe-to-toe with. What will remain as the crucial selling point will be objectivity.

As Power says, "the most descriptively contentious tendency of the audit implosion" will be "the marginalisation of the problem of auditor independence".

If Power is right, what we are seeing is the disassembly and reassembly of the elements that traditionally go to make up financial auditing.

The same elements all remain. They are simply bolted together in a very different way and one that takes the firms far from their old audit function. The real question is, having effectively given up their monopoly in the process, whether they will be able to reap the benefits from their new creation.

## Insider's view on art show

NOW is the time to phone up Ernst & Young and let it know that you are pondering the idea of changing auditors or looking around for tax advice, or even maybe wondering about a flotation shortly ... oh, and you also like art.

Ernst & Young is sponsoring the great blockbuster Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy, which opens this Saturday and for which squillions of tickets have already been sold. Once you have made it into one of their numerous soirées, you should head immediately to Gallery Two of the exhibition in order to emphasise your great knowledge of Monet and his works.

Stand by the end wall and exclaim loudly: "How clever of you to have got him to paint the view of the House of Commons as seen from the partners' dining room". For that is what the paintings show.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Contenders ready

THE final nominations are in for the race to shin up the greasy pole at Moorgate Place. Or, to be more dignified, to become next in line in the three-year run-up to becoming president of the English ICA. As expected, the suave Michael Groom is front-runner as council's favourite, but he is forecast to be given a tough time in the final furlong by David Hunt, the ever-cheerful Pannell Kerr Forster partner from Nottingham. On the outside, and widely seen as putting down a marker for the future, are the youthful Nick Parker, a tax partner from Southampton, and Anne Jenkins, the training and communications expert from Putney. Results of the voting should be with us soon.

### Deloitte recruit

THERE seems to be no end to the loot being thrown into the corporate finance pond by Deloitte & Touche. The lucky winner this week is Gordon McKechnie, one-time vice-president of JP Morgan and latterly managing director, structured finance, at NatWest Markets. He has joined the firm as a partner in the corporate finance department to head the project finance business. "Our aim here is to provide advice of the highest quality to clients," said a spokesman. The money is believed to be of the highest quality, too.

ROBERT BRUCE

هكذا من الإهمال

# Buyers back in charge

*TRADING PERIOD:* Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 646 | 385 | Allied Domecq | 473 | -13 | 5.4 | 12.4 |
| 412½ | 291½ | Bulmer (HP) | 305 | -1 | 6.1 | 13.6 |
| 42½ | 7 | Burn Stewart | 14½ | | | |
| 795 | 432 | Diageo | 662½ | -7½ | 3.0 | 20.0 |
| 900 | 675 | Glenmorangie A | 675 | | 2.7 | 18.3 |
| 325 | 275 | Highland Dist | 256½ | -4 | 4.6 | 11.7 |
| 244 | 115 | Matthew Clark | 242 | | 6.7 | 8.2 |
| 53½ | 18½ | Marydun W | 28½ | | | |
| 2021½ | 725 | SA Breweries | 995½ | +25 | 3.8 | 14.5 |

## BANKS

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1648½ | 893½ | ABN-AMRO | 1345½ | +6½ | 3.2 | 14.8 |
| 1390 | 880 | Abbey Nat | 1316 | +22 | 3.1 | 19.4 |
| 1032 | 585 | Alliance & Leic | 828 | -4 | 3.4 | 15.6 |
| 1232½ | 587½ | Allied Irish | 1225 | +18 | 1.6 | 34.2 |
| 458½ | 293½ | Aus New Z | 412½ | +6½ | 4.9 | |
| 6075 | 3237½ | Bank America | 3853½ | -6½ | | |
| 827 | 431 | Bank Scotland | 830 | +29 | 1.6 | 20.6 |
| 1998 | 827 | Barclays | 1450 | +36 | 3.4 | 13.3 |
| 1487½ | 882½ | Bk of Ireland | 1380 | +53½ | 2.0 | 22.6 |
| 2484½ | 1565½ | Commerzbk | 1903½ | -47½ | 2.9 | |

[illegible]

## BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

## BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

## CHEMICALS

[illegible]

## CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

## DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

## ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

## ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

## ENGINEERING

[illegible]

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 930 | 520 | GKN | 785½ | +19½ | 1.9 | 18.8 |
| 5525 | 2983½ | General Mtr | 5525 | +353½ | 2.2 | .. |
| 611 | 381 | Henlys | 432½ | +1½ | 3.2 | 10.9 |
| 2403½ | 1434 | Honda Motor | 2117½ | +54½ | 0.5 | 14.8 |
| 480 | 123 | Laird | 157½ | +½ | 9.1 | 5.2 |
| 288 | 168 | LucasVarity | 220 | -6 | 2.7 | 13.6 |
| 244½ | 118½ | Mayflower | 131 | -1 | 2.8 | 11.7 |
| 136 | 95½ | Symonds | 98½ | | 6.9 | 7.2 |
| 31½ | 17½ | Tead | 22½ | -½ | | |
| 304 | 66½ | Torotrak | 68 | +1 | | |

[illegible]

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

## HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

## HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

## INSURANCE

[illegible]

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 85½ | 69½ | Conac Inv Inc | 84½ | | 13.1 | 10.4 |
| 635 | 462½ | Derby Cap | 597½ | +2½ | | |
| 156 | 118½ | Derby Inc | 121 | | 17.2 | 3.7 |
| 104 | 46½ | Dresdner RCM Emg | 68 | +2 | | |
| 242½ | 121½ | Dres RCM Smlr | 124 | -1 | 2.7 | 47.0 |
| 220½ | 171½ | Dunedin Inc G | 214 | +½ | 3.3 | 33.9 |
| 467 | 258½ | Dunedin Smlr | 276 | -2 | 5.4 | 18.8 |
| 60½ | 30½ | Edin Dragon | 45½ | +½ | | |
| 29½ | 9½ | Edinburgh Inca | 12½ | | | 49.0 |
| 519 | 355 | Edinburgh IT | 450½ | +3 | 3.0 | 31.1 |

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 140½ | 83 | Perpetual Euro | 125½ | +1½ | 0.4 | .. |
| 156½ | 97½ | Perp Inc Gth | 129½ | +½ | 3.4 | 28.4 |
| 37 | 21 | Perpetual Jap | 31½ | +½ | | |
| 424½ | 262½ | Perpl Uk Sm Co | 280 | | 3.1 | 35.7 |
| £300½ | £168½ | Personal Assets | £189 | | 1.7 | .. |
| 100 | 90½ | Piccadilly Gwth | 98½ | | 2.0 | 77.2 |
| 159 | 98½ | Prolific Inc | 115½ | +½ | 4.9 | 25.3 |
| 380 | 270 | RIT Cap Ptn | 343½ | +4 | 0.7 | |
| 7625 | 5264½ | Robeco NV | 7503½ | +121½ | 1.6 | .. |
| 6578½ | 4465½ | Rolinco NV | 6518½ | +121½ | 0.7 | |

[illegible]

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 180½ | 127½ | Jupiter Intl Grn | 150 | | 3.4 | .. |
| 872½ | 518 | Jupiter Prima | 715 | | 1.1 | .. |
| 183½ | 160½ | Kleinwort End | 180½ | +1 | | |
| 222½ | 89 | Korea Euro | 208½ | -½ | 0.6 | |
| 1399 | 907½ | Law Debenture | 1074 | | 3.4 | 29.9 |
| 129 | 107 | Life Off Opp | 121½ | | | |
| 161½ | 92 | Lloyds Sm Cap | 109½ | | | |
| 22 | 14½ | Lloyds Sm Div | 16½ | | | 3.9 |
| 178 | 105½ | Lloyds Sm Pkg | 127 | | 4.3 | |
| 217½ | 171½ | Lon St Lawrence | 198 | +½ | 4.5 | 25.6 |
| 429 | 291 | Lowland | 318½ | +7 | 4.7 | 25.4 |

[illegible]

## LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 200 | 186 | Thomson Travel | 155½ | | 2.3 | 19.9 |
| 87 | 59 | Tottenham Hot | 72 | +1 | 1.0 | .. |
| 212½ | 95 | Vardon | 135½ | | 2.3 | 17.5 |
| 108 | 45 | Waterfall | 80½ | -½ | 0.4 | .. |
| 412½ | 284½ | Wembley | 371½ | | 1.3 | 9.6 |
| 162½ | 104½ | Zetters Gp | 131½ | | 11.0 | 7.1 |

## MEDIA

[illegible]

| 1998 High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 280 | 198 | Hodder H'line | 238 | -3 | 3.9 | 13.6 |
| 93½ | 22 | ITE Group | 38½ | +2 | 6.0 | 5.2 |
| 30½ | 16½ | Incapta | 20½ | -½ | 2.1 | 9.1 |
| 397½ | 197½ | Independent | 241 | | 3.6 | .. |
| 366½ | 141½ | Informa | 314½ | -1½ | 1.9 | 22.7 |
| 162 | 85 | Intercurope | 86½ | | 6.8 | 8.0 |
| 250 | 147½ | Johnston Press | 212½ | +9½ | 1.9 | 15.0 |
| 69½ | 30 | Lopex | 48½ | -½ | 2.8 | 8.5 |
| 472½ | 218 | Maiden | 315 | | 2.4 | 19.7 |
| 36½ | 5½ | MediaKey | 6½ | -½ | 14.8 | .. |

[illegible]

## MINING

[illegible]

## OIL & GAS

[illegible]

## OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]


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[illegible]

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## RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

## SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

## TRANSPORT

[illegible]

## WATER

[illegible]

## ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

## BRITISH FUNDS

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# Bargains of the week: from a Valentine's break in the lakelands of Fermanagh to a break with the children on Miami's South Beach




■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices*

FREE tickets to the *Monet in the 20th century* exhibition, which opens at the Royal Academy in London on Saturday, are included in special weekend packages from Le Meridien hotel group. Prices start from £69.50 a night for a minimum two-night stay at the Waldorf. Details: 0800 317006.

■ THE WYE Valley and Hereford's cathedral and museums will be visited on a five-day tour starting from the Peterborough area on February 8 with Shaw's Coaches. The holiday costs from £195 and includes four nights half-board at a leading country house hotel with many leisure facilities and entertainment each night. Details: 01778 342224.

■ THE GLENS of Antrim and the Fermanagh lakelands in Northern Ireland offer a romantic setting for Valentine's weekend, and Rural Cottage Holidays has properties available there from £90 for two nights. Longer stays are possible; return flights can be arranged from Gatwick to Belfast from £66. Details: 01232 241100.

■ A FOUR-POSTER bed and wood-burner are among the furniture in an 18th-century cottage near Totnes, Devon, available for a three-night Valentine's break from Hoseasons. It sleeps six, costs £297 and is near Kingston House, which has a brasserie and restaurant. Details: 01502 501515.

■ THE award-winning Angel Hotel, Bury St Edmunds, dates from the 15th century and is now included in Sunvil UK's programme. A Valentine's package there costs £287 for two nights half-board, including a special dinner. Details: 0181-232 9788.

■ HOLIDAY Inn Express has recently opened its newest hotel at Salford Quays, Manchester, where a room for two adults and two children is available from £49.50 a night. Details: 0800 897121.

AMSTERDAM by ferry might seem an old-fashioned idea, but Stena Line claims its service from London via the Harwich to Hook of Holland high-speed ferry, relaunched this week, undercuts Eurostar by £30 and takes only 90 minutes longer. Prices for a three-day Apex return start at £49. Details: 0990 455455.

■ A SKIING weekend for £114 with coach travel is available for students and under-26s from Campus. Leave from London next Thursday, take Le Shuttle to France and enjoy three full days in the French Alps with two nights B&B. Ski hire and pass are extra. Details: 0171-730 3402.

■ HEAD for the slopes and enjoy free car hire is the ambivalent message from Ski Esprit, which has bargain deals to Chamonix for a week from this Sunday and next Sunday. Fly from Gatwick to Geneva, pick up the car and stay in chalet accommodation with half board for £358. Children pay £150. Details: 01252 616789.

■ ICELAND for a weekend is a novel, if chilly, idea and is currently available from Time Off at a £100 discount, including Valentine's weekend. Fly from Heathrow or Glasgow and spend two nights with breakfast in a three-star Reykjavik hotel from £262. Sightseeing trips can be arranged. Details: 0990 846363.

■ FUERTEVENTURA, one of the least crowded Canary Islands, is available for £179 for a week from Co-op with a flight from Gatwick next Wednesday. The deal is for a First Choice self-catering package. Details: 0541 500388.

■ THE WINTER sales have branched out to include city breaks on the Continent, with Thomas Cook Holidays offering discounts to several popular destinations, provided bookings are made by Wednesday. Paris for three nights from £119, Bruges from £149 and Prague for two from £199, all with return flights from Heathrow, are among the best deals. Details: 01733 418200.

■ MADEIRA is seldom available at bargain prices, but Lunn Poly is offering a week's B&B there with Thomson at a three-star hotel for £279, for those who can make the flight from Glasgow on February 1. Details from Lunn Poly Holiday Shops.

PRESS PORTRAIT SERVICE



Hot spot: visit the temple at Luxor on a Nile cruise

## LONG HAUL

BALI, Penang and combined Bangkok and beach holidays are now on offer from Destination Far East, with prices starting at £539 for ten nights in Thailand or a fortnight in the northern Malaysian resort, both with daily flights from Heathrow and Manchester. Details: 0171-400 7000.

■ NILE cruises are increasing in popularity again and Seafarer is offering a week's full board on the *Nile Elegant* from £385 with a flight from Gatwick next Thursday and free excursions. Further Thursday departures are available next month and in March. Details: 01202 685500.

■ CARIBBEAN flight deals are few and far between in high season, but Unijet is offering Barbados for £279 return from Gatwick for those who want to get away on February 1 for a fortnight. Details: 08705 336336.

■ EAST AFRICA's most spectacular sites will be visited on a 27-day camping expedition with The Imaginative Traveller, which begins with a flight from Heathrow to Nairobi on February 2. National parks in Kenya, the Ngorongoro crater in Tanzania, Lake Malawi, the Victoria Falls, full board and a trip to Zanzibar are all included in the £965 price. Details: 0181-742 8612.

■ MIAMI's South Beach, popular with fashion photographers, is available at a discount with special offers for children from Funway Holidays until mid-March. A week at an oceanfront hotel costs from £539 with Virgin Atlantic flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-466 0222.

■ PETRA, the rose-coloured city, oases, mountains and a restored 19th-century village feature in a Jordan Explorer tour with Bales Worldwide. Fly from Heathrow on February 22 and pay from £630 for the week's tour, sightseeing and B&B. Details: 01306 885991.

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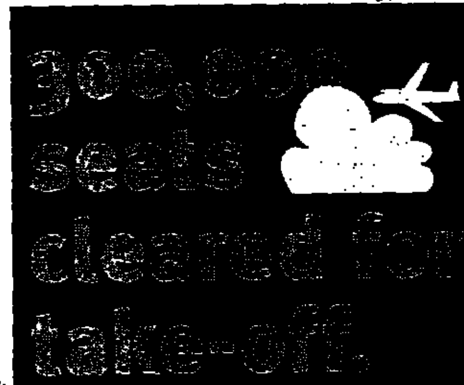
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CLASSICAL CDS

Barenboim displays a noble touch

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THE TIMES

ARTS






# Fame crooks a finger at last

POP

**Sebadoh/Elliott Smith**
Astoria, WC2

Everyone still calls it the Brats, but *NME* has quietly ditched its annual alternative awards show in favour of a TV documentary to be broadcast on Channel 4 next Wednesday. Meanwhile the traditional week of gigs at the Astoria sponsored by the nation's hippest music paper to celebrate "the best music of 1998" has been officially rebranded as the NME Carling Premier Shows.

A victim of its own success, the Brats became an anachronism thanks to the speed with which new and alternative music has been assimilated into the pop mainstream in the 1990s. Nowadays, to find something true to the indie aesthetic, it seems you have to look beyond the latest crop of young, British wannabes. Even so, the arrival on stage of American veterans Sebadoh as headliners on the opening night of the Premier Shows on Tuesday prompted a bizarre sense of déjà vu.

The group's singer and guitarist Lou Barlow was not unaware of the irony. "Pretty up-and-coming," mumbled the shaggy-haired mainstay of a band which survived the grunge era and has its seventh album ready for release next month. Barlow and his longtime colleague Jason Loewenstein (bass and vocals) have clearly raised their musical sights of late, signing a major label contract and sacking their previous drummer because he was not a good enough musician. But their stage presentation was still a shambles, with much hanging around between numbers while guitars were endlessly retuned and faulty equipment bashed and kicked into service.

Their set alternated uncomfortably between the deft and thoughtful songs of Barlow and the baldly clamorous punk-rock statements of Loewenstein. When Barlow was in charge the trio scaled improbable heights, especially with new songs such as the insistent rocker *Flame* and the transcendent rock-ballad *Love is Stronger*. Above all there was an unshakeable sense of integrity about their performance, as befits a band that has proved itself beyond any shadow of a doubt to be immune to the dictates of fashion. With just the smallest of tweaks they could become the new R.E.M. Barlow's music is certainly good enough.

The same could not be said of Elliott Smith, another American whose airy, Beatles-influenced tunes attracted much flattering comment in the music press last year. Supported by a limp rhythm section, the singer and guitarist from Portland, Oregon, preceded Sebadoh with a weary-sounding set that embodied the cliché of the sad indie loser. Some of his numbers had a pleasing harmonic ring, but given Smith's hangdog look, apologetic manner and negative stage presence, it hardly seemed to matter what he sang.

DAVID SINCLAIR

# A taste of Romany cream

**Taraf de Haidouks**
Ronnie Scott's

You can hear gypsy violins at almost any high street taverna, but for a touch of the real thing you have until Saturday to get down to Ronnie Scott's Soho club and catch the Romanian troupe Taraf de Haidouks.

Even the name of Europe's most celebrated group of gypsy musicians is dripping with romance (it means band of brigands) and the Tarafs play wild, fantastical music that stirs the soul and moves the feet. They hail from the tiny village of Clejani outside Bucharest, where they spend half of the year playing weddings, funerals and harvest festivals. Pictures of their home environs reveal haystacks standing in the village square and dirt roads swarming with livestock. But since the downfall of Ceausescu they have spent the other half of the year touring Western Europe, thrilling crowds with their energetic mix of ancient emotional ballads and impossibly furious dance rhythms.

This was the Tarafs' third visit to London, and for the first time they were playing in something approaching their natural milieu. On previous appearances at the Barbican and the Festival Hall (in collaboration with the Kronos Quartet) the staid nature of the concert hall inhibited their passion. In the smoky den that is Ronnie Scott's they were better able to recapture the mood of the cellars and village halls they are accustomed to playing, and indulge their runaway, foot-stomping, swirling magic.

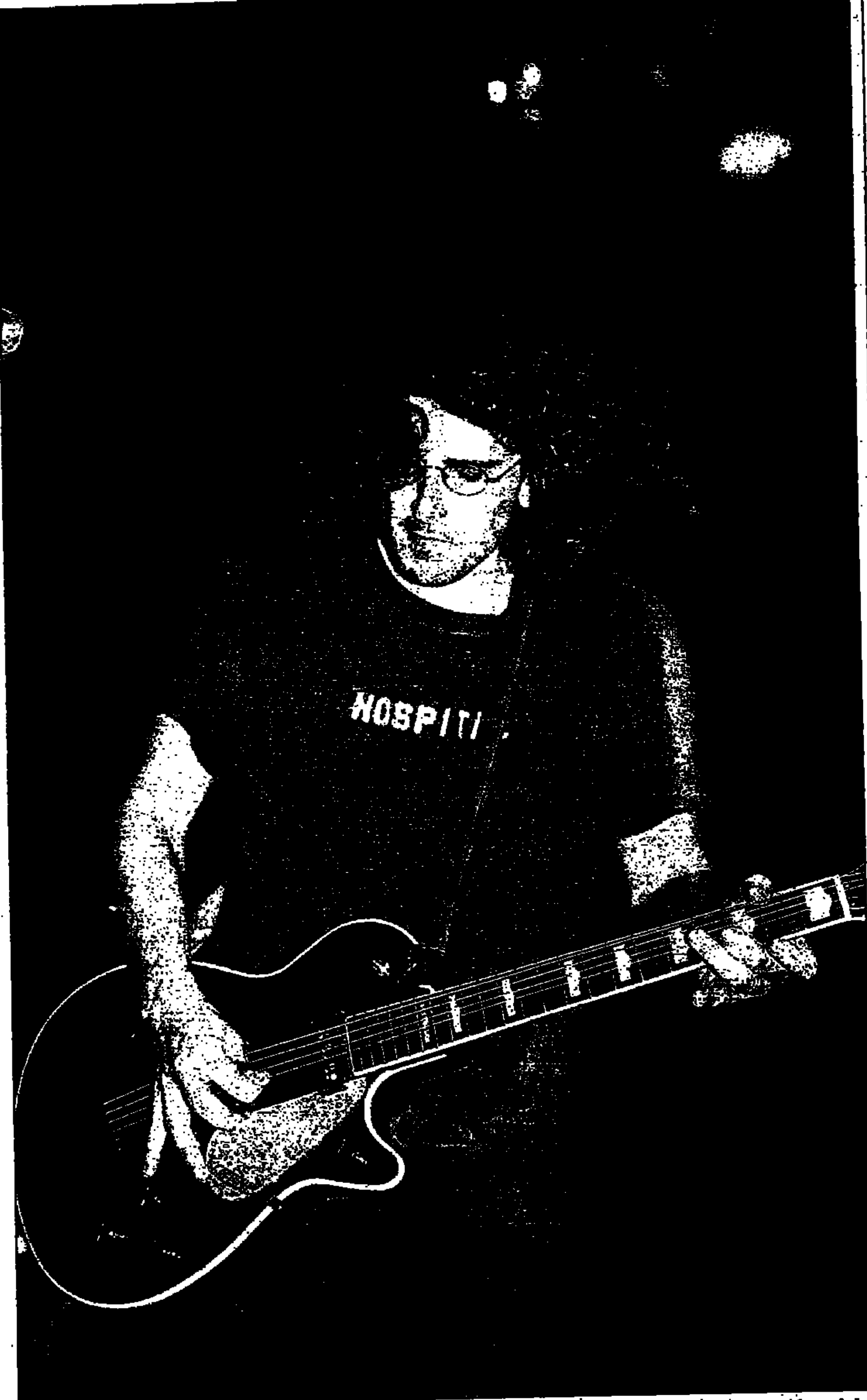
The 11-strong group has an age range that spans half a century, with the oldest approaching 80. For the most part they appeared in a variety of smaller combinations to show off their instrumental skills. Spontaneous and given to outrageous improvisation, every teaming seemed to have an extraordinary musical alchemy.

The heartbeat throughout was provided by double bass and cimbalom, a large East European dulcimer that, when hammered vigorously, emits huge ripples of rhythm. They were joined by up to four violinists, three accordionists and a brace of full-throated singers. Sometimes passionate and soulful and at others mournful and reflective, their virtuosity was breathtaking and their sense of fun mischievous.

As for the music, it was as indefinable and itinerant as the gypsy spirit — Indian drones and Arabic quarter-tones, Slavonic folk dances and, at their most breathtaking, a kind of acoustic but explosive Balkan boogie. Don't miss. There's not a better night out to be had in London this week.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

ANGELA LUBRANO




Up-and-comer: Lou Barlow of Sebadoh lays a claim to R.E.M.'s crown at the Astoria on Tuesday night

# Big, big band

THE idea that big bands are all about men with grey hair and red cummerbunds gets short shrift from the Andy Prior Orchestra. The music played may have been around for half a century, but most of the musicians scarcely looked old enough to remember the Beatles, let alone Tommy Dorsey.

The very mention of the treacly trombonist's name prompted gentle sighs of contentment around the auditorium — the core audience for this brand of dance band entertainment is well advanced in age. The task facing Prior — a single-minded Lancastrian who has kept an orchestra going for 15 years now — is how to cultivate a younger public without alienating the faithful.

It can be done. Some purists were suspicious of Harry Connick Jr's matinee idol appeal, but the American singer has proved that vintage swing can still fill the Albert Hall. Prior's cheekie-chappie patter does not begin to compete with Connick in the charisma stakes. By far the weakest part of this concert lay in the redundant chat between numbers and the Ovalteenie-like references to the "girls and boys in the band".

JAZZ



But catch Prior on his current tour — which runs beyond February — and you will hear some dazzlingly precise standards. Bryan Pendleton's orchestrations are perfectly tailored to the demands of the brass section. You get a couple of neatly reworked Glenn Miller warhorses for your money, but most of the evening is devoted to Prior's tribute to Sinatra, constructed around some eerily accurate evocations of Nelson Riddle's arrangements. Prior does not go for a precise impersonation of The Voice, but his phrasing on *I've Got The World On A String* or *Come Fly With Me* is unmistakably the same, and a first-rate sound mix ensured that he and his engaging guest vocalist Donna Canale were never overwhelmed. The most startling piece was an immaculate *Pennies From Heaven*. Musicianship as assured as this should never be hidden away in the "nostalgia" bin.

CLIVE DAVIS

# Have cello, will go far

CONCERTS

**Alice Neary**
Wigmore Hall

Winner of the Pierre Fournier Award in 1998, the cellist Alice Neary gave what was billed as her debut recital at a packed Wigmore Hall last Friday. Rarely can a debut have been attended by such a gathering of the great and good — clearly the word had got around. And Neary is indeed a player of the highest calibre: secure in technique and astonishingly mature in her musicianship.

Opening with one of the severest tests of the repertoire — unaccompanied Bach — she dispatched the Suite No 3 in C with impressive fluency and a grasp of the style from which some of her seniors of the old school could learn a lot. The harmonies implied in Bach's lines emerged clearly and accents were perfectly judged. Neary has the confidence to allow a phrase to hover for a fraction, subsequently picking up the thread without any unnatural break in the line.

In Samuel Barber's Cello Sonata in C Minor, Op 6, the sonorous tone she elicits from her 1720 Gagliano stood her in good stead for the lyrical cantabile that dominates this Romantically tonal work. *Das Buch* by the Latvian composer Peteris Vasks even calls for the soloist to provide her own vocal accompaniment, which Neary (daughter of the organist Martin Neary) did to serene effect.

The "Fortissimo" movement is more aggressive and both here and in similar sections of Schnittke's Cello Sonata, intonation and tone occasionally came under pressure. But the tension and resolution of the Schnittke's outer movements were realised with eloquence.

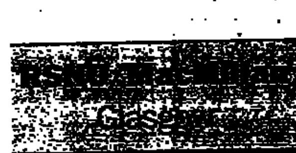
In Beethoven's Cello Sonata in D, Op 102 No 2, with which the recital ended, Neary showed imagination of a high order in her response to the composer's varied modes of discourse. The first movement, for example, is strongly gestural: now commanding, now interrogatory or beseeching. Her ability to reflect every subtle twist of the argument with an eloquent turn of phrase marks her out as a player of rare gifts.



Alice Neary: debut triumph

BARRY MILLINGTON

# Look north for novelty



The Royal Scottish National Orchestra has just started on something that other, comparable British orchestras have more or less abandoned: a concert series devoted specifically to contemporary music. With its artistic director James MacMillan and other composers there to introduce the programmes, and with the orchestra ready to play extracts in illustration, the Discovery Series is clearly intended to be as audience-friendly as the RSNO can get it.

Certainly, in the second of this season's Discovery concerts in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, MacMillan's introduction to his own *Epiclesis* (which takes a lot of explaining on both the theological and the musical level) was thorough and illuminating. If Gerald Barry, a composer rather less given to exegesis, did not have so much to say, that in itself was a guide to the laconic quality of his two short pieces, *Diner* and *Flamboys*.

As for Sibelius, what he was doing in a concert given in association with the Celtic Connections Festival, MacMillan never actually made clear. "Northern soul," he said twice, and we had to make do with that, trying to work out the relationship between Celtic and Finno-Ugric and not getting very far.

Actually, although he might well have done birdsong research in Brittany, Messiaen wasn't Celtic either. But the most obvious connection between the music of the Scottish MacMillan and the Irish Barry is Messiaen. Neither composer mentioned his name but, most clearly at the beginning of *Diner* and in the celebratory final section of *Epiclesis*, the Messiaen influence is unmistakable — and, in that both Barry and MacMillan have made something quite personal of it, by no means unacceptable. Indeed, Barry's vivid postulation in *Diner* of a can-can as Messiaen might have written one was such a joy that it earned instant forgiveness for the lumbering beast he lets loose in his inexplicable *Flamboys*. Perhaps the RSNO's performance, under MacMillan's direction, didn't do it full justice.

One reason for the presence here of Sibelius's Fifth Symphony was presumably that MacMillan wanted to conduct it. Although there is much else in the work that his interpretation scarcely hinted at, he did demonstrate its long-term organic development — which is precisely what it has in common with his own Trumpet Concerto, *Epiclesis*.

Somewhat revised since its first performance at the Edinburgh Festival in 1993, and now supplied with two distantly placed antiphonal piccolo trumpets to interact with the soloist in the closing section, it is an even more sensational sound than it was before. The soloist, for whom it was written and who seems to have no problem with its many technical and expressive challenges, was John Wallace.

GERALD LARNER

# You are safe in our hands

## Has the Arts Council treated our top orchestras badly? Far from it, says its chief executive, **Peter Hewitt**

The Arts Council's financial strategy is clear. It is to reward artistic innovation and excellence. It is to reward those who have managed the rigours of the past few years inventively. It is to help organisations with severe financial difficulty. And it is to create a new flexible fund to add to the lifeblood of the arts in the longer term — something the Arts Council has not had for many years.

The Arts Council received an increase of £29 million (a 15 per cent rise) in its grant-in-aid for 1999-2000. It put £7 million into that "lifeblood fund" and priorities for it will soon be decided. It will benefit both existing organisations, such as orchestras, and new activity.

Most of the rest was put into ongoing funding of arts organisations. This was partly delivered through substantial increases to regional arts boards. It did not give all arts organisations the same percentage increase but took a strategic approach informed by the circumstances of each organisation.

The Bournemouth Orchestras, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia and the Royal Philharmonic will see grants rise by 10 per cent or more in 1999-2000. As for the kind of sums being handed to the orchestras, the Bournemouth Orchestras will receive £1.8 million in 1999-2000, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic £1.56 million, CBSO £1.35 million, and the LSO £1.3 million.

Every funded orchestra will receive substantially more than inflation and some will receive sums many times an inflationary increase. Is this strategy incoherent or unfair?

From lottery funds the Arts Council also has at its disposal a stabilisation fund. This is to provide one-off assistance to allow organisations like orchestras to rethink and if necessary reorder their work to provide long-term development. That way, their demand on annual grant can be lessened and the orchestras' durability strengthened.

Three orchestras have already received large stabilisation grants: Bournemouth Orchestras £3.2 million; LSO £868,000; and Northern Sinfonia £1.7 million. Other orchestras will benefit similarly from stabilisation assistance in future. It is true that stabilisation grants can only be released once the orchestra has been through the "rethinking" that is central to the stabilisation approach. But if this creates short-term difficulties the Arts Council has helped, and will continue to help, with cash advances and other assistance.

A case in question is the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. In recent months we have assisted the RLPO, which has fundamental financial problems, with cash advances on several occasions. I recently met the Merseyside Local Authorities and North West Arts Board with the RLPO and all agreed to look jointly at the RLPO's needs. I told those present we were very open to receiving a stabilisation application, assuming the orchestra was prepared to look radically at its options. Everyone left the meeting in determined mood to solve the issues together. Is this an Arts Council acting unfairly or without strategy?

There have been concerns about the Arts Council's decision to delegate orchestras to regional arts boards. Delegation is not being done out of dogma, but because we believe it best for orchestras and their audiences. It is a fact that new and greater financial opportunities will in future exist at regional level. Therefore, orchestras will be best served if funded by RABs, with the Arts Council taking on a genuine strategic overview of orchestral provision. This strategic view will carry financial teeth, as we are by far the largest financial stakeholder in RABs.

The delegation of 35 organisations, including the orchestras, is part of a process that began some years ago and which will continue: every organisation, regardless of type or size, will over time be delegated if that is the best way to serve artists and audiences. No organisations will be retained on the basis of "status". RABs already support work of national and international stature.

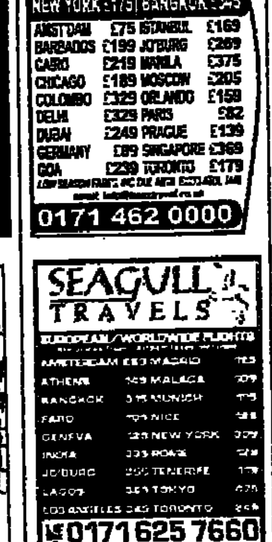
It should be clear, then, that orchestras are being managed within a clear and coherent Arts Council financial strategy. It is clear that they have benefited hugely from recent decisions, and they will, I am sure, continue to benefit significantly in future. Delegation is to their advantage. There is no cause for complaint.

CHECK-IN









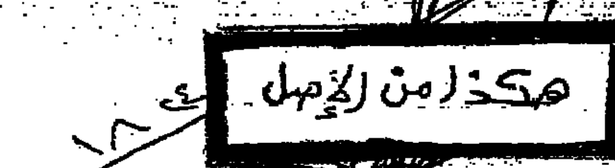







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**NEW MOVIES:** In the new film about Jacqueline du Pré the first casualty of sibling rivalry is truth, says **James Christopher**

# Sister act leads to sour finale

Anand Tucker's film, *Hilary and Jackie*, is generating as many howls of outrage as Margaret Cook's cathartic confessions about the sex life of the Foreign Secretary. Based on the 1997 biography *A Genius in the Family*, by Hilary and Piers du Pré, Tucker's film ostensibly celebrates the genius cellist Jacqueline du Pré and the volatile relationship she had with her older sister, Hilary.

The controversy started with the book, but it is fuelled here by a portrayal of Jacqueline that, if not deliberately vindictive, makes a cheap melodrama out of the life of an icon who died a slow, horrible death from multiple sclerosis in 1987. If you scrub Jackie's reputation, which the film continually invites you to do, you will apparently discover a spoilt, recklessly selfish, foul-mouthed schemer who bedded her sister's husband and preyed on her family's good will.

It's the familiar price of wayward geniuses in musical fictions such as Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* or Bernard Rose's *Immortal Beloved*. But it doesn't cut much ice here. If Hilary and Jackie were complete fictions they would be equally unbelievable, and the film equally lopsided. My beef is not so much with the accuracy of Hilary's biography, or even her murky reasons for wanting to publicise their differences, but the insipid way that Tucker paints his film as a two-sided story.

After an idyllic, close musical childhood, the lives of the musical siblings proceed from separate viewpoints. In Hilary's account, Jackie is a loose cannon: gifted, self-centred and disturbed. Their relationship is spookily intense, but entirely one-way. Constantly deferring to Jackie's blossoming career, Rachel Griffiths's struggling flautist Hilary loses her self-confidence and eventually her place at the Royal College of Music. When David Morrissey's bouncy conductor Kiffer swoops into Hilary's life and marries her in a romantic flurry, Jackie responds by marrying James Frain's hunky, unconventional swinger Daniel Barenboim. Hailed as the Arthur and Guinevere of classical music, they disappear into the glamorous distance.

The mythical reference is not without bite. When Jackie gets the first symptoms of MS, she arrives at Hilary and Kiffer's rural retreat. She begs to sleep with Kiffer (a Lancelot if ever there was one) and gets her wicked way at some cost to everyone but herself. The same episode is treated as a reasonable demand in Jackie's story, part of her need to constantly overshadow her sister.

The problem of course is that one never gets Jackie's true story, for the simple reason that she has never given it. Her film testimony is a nightmare of concert halls, boring receptions and loneliness.

**Hilary and Jackie**
Curzon Mayfair
15, 121 mins
*Wildly misguided biopic of the late Jacqueline du Pré*

**Practical Magic**
Warner West End
12, 104 mins
*Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman put a hex on this comedy*

**Bulworth**
Warner Village West End, 18, 108 mins
*Warren Beatty in farcical election triumph*

**Class Trip**
15, 96 mins
ABC Shaftesbury Ave
*Intriguing French psycho-thriller*

**54**
Virgin Haymarket
15, 104 mins
*Puny fairytale about Manhattan's most famous disco*

**Polygraph**
ICA, 103 mins
*Stylish but impenetrable Canadian mystery*

With eyes like bloodshot soup plates, Emily Watson's febrile Jackie bonds impressively with her cello while the camera swirls around her. But, implausibly, she treats her prodigious gift as a curse. The tragic way she is deserted by her talent and embraced by MS — dropping her bow mid-concerto, or urinating in her ballgown before a performance — is haphazardly linked to her disintegrating sanity and relationship with Barenboim.

Like the music, the fierce performances of Griffiths and Watson give a misleading sheen to this misguided melodrama. The abiding impression is of lives that have been bent out of shape to further the box-office ambitions of a mediocre film, rather than serve anything as interesting as truth.


Talented sisters caught in a tragic triangle: Jacqueline (Emily Watson) and Hilary (Rachel Griffiths) du Pré in Anand Tucker's well-acted but highly contentious *Hilary and Jackie*

Griffin Dunne's **Practical Magic** moves the focus from a pair of first-class bitches to a pair of second-rate witches. Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman play chalk-and-cheese sisters brought up by two smug aunts with a ghastly taste in fright wigs. Three hundred years of witchcraft have done nothing for the family wardrobe, or the curse that dooms any man who falls in love with an Owens woman. An unfortunate state of affairs for Bullock's perfectly nice husband, who gets flattened by a ten-ton truck in the first reel.

Despite this brief tragedy, life continues as harmlessly as *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*. The aunts (Dianne Wiest and Stockard Channing) make love potions for their superstitious, hypocritical New England neighbours. The nieces dream of men they dare not love. Girl power, complete with soft rock anthems that will no doubt soon be numbing a chart near you, has rarely looked so unmagical.

A film with infinitely more comic style is Warren Beatty's satire about political mendacity, **Bulworth**. We've been to this trough before with John Travolta in *Primary Colors*, Robert De Niro in *Wag the Dog* and Tim Robbins in *Bob Roberts*. Playing an American Senator whose election hopes are sinking, Beatty adds a novel spin to the grubby business of winning votes.

Bulworth has a nervous breakdown, hires a hitman to kill him, and promptly discovers a kamikaze freedom to tell unspeakable home truths to a bemused nation. He's nuts, of course. But the idea that a politician has to be insane to tell the truth neatly bypasses the familiar Hollywood saga about media manipulation.

Produced, written and directed by and starring Beatty, *Bulworth* is a shameless vehicle for the actor to flaunt his liberal credentials, and he revels in it. His crumpled hero is so busy being cool you can't help liking him. The sting, of course, is that having discovered a new zest for life, Bulworth spends his time running from back-firing cars and trying to lift the bounty he has put on his own head. It's not the most insightful or even original satire. But the anarchy makes it irresistible.

The joint winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 1998 Cannes festival, **Class Trip**, directed by Claude Miller (see interview below), is a quirky film about a school ski trip sabotaged by the morbid fears of a shy, friendless boy desperate to escape his meddling, overprotective father. Spooky stories about children kidnapped for their vital organs punctuate dormitory conversations. The mysterious disappearance of a local boy adds fuel to the speculation. The feeling that the holiday is going to end in an ugly mess hangs over the film like bad weather.

While the rest of the class heads for the slopes, the sickly Nicolas (Clement van den Bergh) struggles with waking fantasies in which his travelling salesman father (François Roy) comes to various far-fetched gory deaths. What gives the film power is the way these scenes sit in stark contrast to the baffled concerns of the sympathetic teachers. Van den Bergh's almost expressionless Nicolas gives nothing away. His is a compelling performance in an oddly compelling film.

Old disco queens claim that if you remember what you did in Manhattan's most hedonistic nightclub, Studio 54, you weren't really there. Unfortunately amnesia isn't a problem for Mark Christopher or his eminently forgettable film, **54**. In this 1979 fairytale, a starry-eyed beefcake with dreams of glamour leaves his dreary New Jersey family, takes his clothes off and lands the job as chief bartender in the most exclusive, drug-crazed discotheque in the world.

Having planted himself at the heart of this circus of sex and celebrity, Ryan Phillippe's pretty-boy spends the rest of the film trying to justify his fatuous self-importance. He flexes his astounding pectorals, bonks raddled old women and looks broody when nobody takes him seriously. Various has-beens, starting with Michael York, line up to lend period credibility. But the film resolutely fails to step as lightly as its frothy, toe-tapping soundtrack.

What keeps us fitfully entertained is the Olympian debauchery of Mike Myers's louche nightclub owner, Steve Rubell. An absolute ringer for the original Rubell, Myers's seedy homosexual comically snorts and bullies his way to ruin. When the tax inspectors arrive, Myers loses his chemical paradise and Phillippe discovers his true destiny in the shape of a business degree course. The moral of this fantasia should not be wasted on Christopher: forget the job, get a life.

Eleven years ago the experimental Canadian director Robert Lepage grabbed the attention of British theatre critics with his slippery murder mystery **Polygraph**. His film of the play is no less impressive, and no less impenetrable. What it loses in poetry is made up by the way Lepage peers through grimy windows into the love lives and sanity of both suspects and slimy cops.

For a struggling student (Patrick Goyette), life's certainties are trashed by the inconclusive results of a lie detector test to determine whether he killed his girlfriend. Unknown to him, his neighbour, a freelance actress (Marie Brassard), has been cast as the victim in a film that reconstructs the crime. What follows is a macabre cat's cradle of teasing coincidences. Brassard has an affair with the forensic scientist who conducted the autopsy. Goyette, saddled by uncertainty, starts acting like a killer.

The film stalls over grainy attempts to relate the mystery to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Stylistically it is fascinating, playing with real-time conversations in restaurants while the kitchen and waiters are put on fast-forward. But serving up the suspense at intellectual arm's length cools one's ardour for Lepage's lofty ambitions, and inevitably the film itself.

French director Claude Miller isn't afraid of fear, as **Nigel Cliff** reports

# The lord of misrule

The distinguished French director Claude Miller, though little known over here, has spent the past three decades quietly making himself a master of that most Gallic of genres, the psychological drama. Deceptively simple, sometimes slight, always intriguing, his films are all serpentine swarms of suppressed passions and festering fears. Not easy viewing, no doubt; but Miller has a way of projecting the inner lives of his characters, in unforgiving close-ups and telling silences, with an intensity and a sensitivity to emotional nuance that few can match. Not for nothing has he been called a French Bergman.

Assistant for a decade to his friend and mentor François Truffaut, Miller is nevertheless his own man. Truffaut's greatest gift, he says, was to teach him the importance of controlling his career by being author and producer as well as director of his films — "in a word, to be independent".

Miller has not taken the advice lightly. His films invariably delve deep into his own obsessions, and slightly alarming they are too. Jealousy, insecurity, anxiety tend to be his characters' lot. His latest, *Class Trip*, though ostensibly a thriller, is no different. Joint winner of the Jury Prize at last year's Cannes Film Festival, its mysteries unfold amid the snowy wastes of a school ski trip. But the point of the film — prompted by a real news story — is to explore, in a string of nightmarish flashbacks and macabre fantasies, the traumatised mind of Nicolas, a young boy whose apparently conventional father harbours a shameful and gruesome secret.

A less likely person to have such dark concerns you couldn't imagine. A benign and rumpled presence, all tousled grey hair and boyish enthusiasm, Miller readily acknowledges his attraction to unhappy souls. "I've always been fascinated by the barbaric side of characters, and the violence they inflict on each other," he admits. "Well-adjusted people just aren't as interesting. For me, the point of being a film-maker is to pick up on dysfunction. The history of the cinema is the history of exposing people's secrets."


Claude Miller on the set of his latest film *Class Trip*, which explores the traumatic world of childhood

In particular, Miller has repeatedly returned to his favourite theme of the privacies and privations of childhood. *Class Trip* recalls his first feature, the coming-of-age drama *La Meilleure Façon de Marcher (The Best Way to Walk)*, similarly set amid the swirling adolescent hormones of a boys' camp. So why this enduring fascination? "It's a form of voyeurism," the director offers. "There's a purity about children on the level of sensation that constantly intrigues me.

"I don't mean that children are angelic, perfect and pure — far from it. But they have a direct access to emotions. Even faced with evil, adults make many more compromises. Children's reactions are far more primal and violent. That makes their psyche an extremely absorbing fabric for a film-maker to work on."

Miller is renowned for cajoling compelling performances from his young actors. Nevertheless, he admits: "I can't honestly say I tremendously enjoy working with children. It's much easier with adults — there are endless possibilities for reciprocal seduction, for the game of relationships you play to take actors where you want to go. It just doesn't work with children — you have to be far more natural and direct."

Miller gleefully insists that he hasn't grown up yet himself. "I don't see myself as an adult, living in an adult world. I still think of myself as a child. I feel more comfortable depicting the mind and emotions of children than adults." This, he suggests, is why he is a film-maker. "There are two sorts of directors: those who deal with the world of adults as adults, and those who make films as a means of revisiting their childhood dreams. I think I fall into the second category."

So what new dreams does *Class Trip* revisit? Miller was especially attracted to the story (the film is based on a 1995 novel by Emmanuel Carrère) because it implies "that children are able to understand far more than we think of the adult world, although no words are spoken. They see the good, but they also feel the evil."

That idea gave him scope to dip into the stream of the unconsciousness. "I was very excited by the prospect of translating the book's mixture of fantasy, flashback and actuality into images. It's the same as when you fall asleep: you don't realise that you're slipping out of reality. I wanted to try to put that across in film, to blur the boundaries, so you feel the same intimate sensations as when you start to dream."

★★★★★
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■ **LISTINGS**
Bernard Haitink in Cardiff

# ARTS

■ **NEW CLASSICAL CDS**
Barenboim on top form

## RECOMMENDED TODAY

**Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie**

### LONDON

**ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT:** Robert Levin, in his debut performance with the period orchestra, *takes on the dual role of* conductor and soloist in a programme of Mozart's Piano Concertos K491 and *K503 and the 39th Symphony*
**Queen Elizabeth Hall** (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 7.45pm.

**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Michael Tilson Thomas conducts a programme of Ives, *Prokofiev and Mendelssohn.* With the virtuoso Gil Shaham as violin soloist.
**Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Tonight, *7.30pm* 🄱

**BRIEF CANDLE:** Denis Quilley plays various European celebrities who fell for the charms of young Marie Bashkirtseff (Celia White) in the 1880s and figured in her posthumously published diaries. *Stella Quilley directs.*
**New End** (0171-794 0022) Opens tonight, 7.30pm 🄱

**LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Ewan McGregor stars in *the title role of a sentimentalised revival* of David Halliwell's play about art-student failure and fascism
**Comedy** (0171-369 1731) Opens tonight, 8pm.

### ELSEWHERE

**CAMBRIDGE:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss *Ackland begin an eight-week tour in* **The Gin Game.** D.L. Coburn's Pulitzer Prizewinner about truthtelling over a game of cards. Frith Banbury directs.
**Arts Theatre** (01223 503333) Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

***CARDIFF:*** *Bernard Haitink, a leading* interpreter of Mahler, makes his first

Michael Tilson Thomas *conducts at the Barbican*

visit here conducting the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** in a performance of the composer's Ninth Symphony
**St David's Hall** (01222 878444) *Tonight, 7.30pm* 🄱

**EDINBURGH:** **The Scottish Chamber Orchestra** under Joseph Swensen performs early Beethoven symphonies and concertos. With the acclaimed pianist Imogen Cooper as soloist
***Queen's Hall*** *(0131-668 2019)* Tonight, 7.45pm

**MANCHESTER:** The clarinettist Michael Collins joins the **Hallé Orchestra** in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A. Gilbert Varga conducts
***Bridgewater Hall*** *(0161-907 9000).* Tonight, 7.30pm. 🄱

## NEW WEST END SHOWS

**Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London**
**■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices**

□ **THE DECEIVED:** The Italian *source for Shakespeare's Twelfth* Night but much more of a cross-dressing sexual romp. Kenneth Rea's production for Jet Theatre relocates it to the 1920s. See feature, page 39.
**Riverside Studios** (0181-237 1111). 🄱

◩ **OKLAHOMA!:** National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein.
**Lyceum** (0171-416 6099).

◩ ***RICHARD III:*** *Robert Lindsay puts* on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC production; transfer from Stratford.
***Savoy*** *(0171-836 8888)* 🄱

□ **BAD WEATHER:** Robert Holman's discursive play where a French nanny (Susan Engel) *resolves* some problems in a Middlesbrough tower block. Odd yet haunting.
**Pit** (0171-638 8891).

□ **THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE:** *Dramatised reconstruction of the* Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Timed to coincide with this month's publication of the findings. Profoundly relevant.
**Tricycle Theatre** (0171-328 1000). 🄱

□ **LORD OF THE FLIES:** William *Golding's vivid tale of terror and* death on paradise island, adapted by Nigel Williams and directed by *Marcus Romer for Pilot Theatre* Company. See review, page 39.
**Lyric, W6** (0181-741 8701). 🄱

□ ***THE MEMORY OF WATER:*** Alison Steadman, Samantha Bond and Julia Sawalha star in Shelagh Stephen*son's acclaimed drama of family* memories. Terry Johnson directs.
**Vaudeville** (0171-836 9987).

◩ ***THE STREET OF CROCODILES:*** Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno *Schulz's magical recollections of pre-*Nazi Poland. See review, page 39.
**Queens** (0171-494 5041).

□ ***CHICAGO:*** *Maria Friedman injects* new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about *murder and fickle fame.*
**Adelphi** (0171-344 0055).

## FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

**James Christopher's choice of the latest movies**

### NEW RELEASES

**MEET JOE BLACK** (12): Brad Pitt's comic, charming Joe Black, aka Death, bribes Anthony Hopkins's media tycoon to introduce him to the joys of life. Director Martin Brest tries to give equal credibility to both characters, but ends up with a *long-winded, uneven melodrama.* Claire Forlani supplies the bewitching love interest.

**THE OPPOSITE OF SEX** (18): Christina Ricci plays a caustic, trashy 16-year-old who stitches up her gay step-brother by stealing his boyfriend and high-tailing it to LA. A blistering comedy on political correctness. *Written and directed by Don Roos.*

**BUTTONERS** (no cert): Ingenious low-budget Czech film by Petr Zelenka that stitches six stories about modern mores into a daisy chain of quirky, sometimes kinky, coincidences.

**DOBERMANN** (18): Stylish French splatter movie by Jan Kounen with Vincent Cassel as the charismatic leader of a gang of ultra-violent bank robbers. Fabulously clichéd, grossly amusing, and awesomely incorrect.

**SOUR GRAPES** (15): Sitcom dressed up as a film by Larry David, co-creator of Seinfeld. Two cousins (Craig Bierko and Steven Weber) fall out over a jackpot win in Atlantic city. Starts getting mildly amusing when Weber's brain surgeon accidentally emasculates a patient.

### CURRENT

**LITTLE VOICE** (15): Mark Herman's *wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's* stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of torch song divas. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent sleaze around in the foreground.

**THE SIEGE** (15): Denzel Washington, Annette Bening, and Bruce Willis trip over each others' bootlaces as they *try and defuse an Arab terrorist* offensive in Manhattan. Chillingly real, beautifully acted.

**π (Pi)** (15): Low-budget sci-fi adventure by David Aronofsky that charts the madness of a genius mathematician who is haunted by nightmares and *money-mad* investors. Sean Gullette is the *mesmerising lead.*

**THE ACID HOUSE** (18): Three darkly comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucination by Irvine Welsh. An indigestible onslaught. With Stephen McCole, Ewen Bremner, and Kevin McKidd. *Director, Paul McGuigan*

# In the heat of the night

## NEW VIDEO RELEASES

■ **EVE'S BAYOU**
*Alliance, 15, 1998*
SAMUEL L. JACKSON leaves pulp fictions aside to play an amorous wealthy doctor in Louisiana in the early 1960s. One of his indiscretions is witnessed by his ten-year-old daughter Eve (Jurnee *Smollett), whose perspective* dominates this sensitive and poetic coming-of-age saga, pitched midway between Southern Gothic melodrama and a *Tennessee Williams* play. Director Kasi Lemmons, a former actress, secures excellent performances, especially from leading ladies Lynn Whitfield and Debbi Morgan.

■ **AU HASARD BALTHAZAR**
*Nouveaux Pictures, PG, 1966*
HOW can a film starring a donkey be completely devoid *of sentimentality?* If the director is Robert Bresson it is easily done, for he observes with the kind of delicate rigour that lets in feeling while stopping all indulgence.

The story of Balthazar *comes interwined with the story* of Marie, the girl who adopts him as a pet. She has the power to act; the donkey does not. But in Bresson's universe both share much the same fortune, buffeted and abused by others. The cast, as usual, are non-actors, brilliantly handled by a director who knows the supreme power of the glance, the gesture and the *telling word.*



Southern Gothic melodrama meets Tennessee Williams: Jurnee Smollett and Samuel L. Jackson in Kasi Lemmons's debut feature, *Eve's Bayou*

■ **SIX DAYS, SIX NIGHTS**
*Buena Vista, 12, 1998*
HE IS a happy-go-lucky freight plane pilot working the Hawaiian islands. She is a *neurotic magazine editor* from New York, who hitches a plane ride while holidaying with a fiancé clearly meant to be ditched. The plane hits a storm and crash lands on a deserted island. Guess what happens next? The astonishing thing about this antiquated romantic comedy is that so much is entertaining. Harrison Ford *seems rejuvenated,* and Anne Heche is allowed to be what she is good at being, a quicksilver comedienne. Rent it, watch, enjoy and forget.

■ **HIS KIND OF WOMAN**
*4 Front, 12, 1951*
ANYTHING goes in this astonishing thriller, which starts with a deported gangster trying to return with the help of *plastic surgery, proceeds* to sultry exchanges between Robert Mitchum and Jane Russell, and ends with Vincent Price in a feathered hat, firing bullets and Shakespeare quotes at the baddies. For all the diverse material and RKO's exquisitely tacky Mexican sets, John Farrow (father of Mia) directs very well, and the cast end up having a tongue-in-cheek ball. First time on video.

■ **US MARSHALS**
*Warner DVD, 15, 1998*
FOR its special feature this DVD edition wisely concentrates on the one sequence worth remembering from this lazy sequel to the screen version of *The Fugitive:* the crash of the 727 plane that sets Wesley Snipes on the run, a suspected assassin of government agents. The director Stuart Baird talks (with an interesting plaster over his left eye), and we see multiple storyboard sketches. Back in the film itself, however, nothing much of interest happens, for all the chasing by US Marshal *Tommy Lee Jones through* swamp, cemetery and hospital, ad infinitum.

GEOFF BROWN

## NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Young violinist makes his mark; a fine macho *Lohengrin*; and a compelling recital

### ORCHESTRAL

■ **SCHNITTKE/WEILL/ TAKEMITSU**
**Works for Violin and Orchestra**
Hope/English SO/Boughton
*Nimbus NI 5582* ★★★ *£13.99*
THE 24-year-old British violinist Daniel Hope is undoubtedly a rising star in the musical *firmament.* Indeed, he has already appeared with an impressive roster of partners, although this is his debut on CD. The programme he has chosen for it is an enterprising one: performances of impor*tant and under-exposed works* by Schnittke and Weill, as well as a substantial filler, courtesy of Takemitsu.

Schnittke's Sonata for Violin and Chamber Orchestra evokes both the Stravinsky of *The Soldier's Tale* and the grotesquerie of a Shostakovich dance of death. This work and the same composer's Concerto Grosso No 6 for piano, violin and strings each bring high-voltage virtuoso playing from Hope (as well as from the pianist Simon Mulligan in the Concerto).

Chantal Juillet and Frank Peter Zimmermann have both recorded Weill's Concerto for Violin and Wind Orchestra recently, but the account by the *young Briton is in no* way inferior to theirs. Indeed, with vigorous support from William Boughton's English Symphony Orchestra and Nimbus's up-front recording, Weill's hard-edged sonorities are ren*dered more mordant than* ever. But Hope also has a sweet tone at his command, as heard in the watery dreamscape of Takemitsu's *Nostalghia.*

BARRY MILLINGTON

### OPERA

■ **WAGNER**
**Lohengrin**
Magee/Polaski/Seiffert/ Struckmann/Papé/Staatskapelle Berlin/Barenboim
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JOHN HIGGINS

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HILARY FINCH

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■ THEATRE
A company is born

ARTS

■ COMEDY
The real John Shuttleworth

# Diary of a mad theatre man

Will the show go on? **Kenneth Rea** charts the obstacles to setting up his own drama company



MARTIN BEDDALL

Who was that masked man? Jet Theatre boss Kenneth Rea permits himself a nervous smile as some of his long-suffering actors take a break from rehearsals for *The Deceived*

Summer 1996: I'm in Tuscany working on a Renaissance play called *Gli'Ingannati (The Deceived)*. It's a startling, sexy comedy about a teenage girl who dresses up as a boy to control the man she loves and eliminate his current girlfriend. Shakespeare adapted it as *Twelfth Night*, but where he used innuendo, this is uninhibited, joyous, in-your-face sex. What a dream, to do this in Britain. I could set up my own company. Madness, of course, to attempt it when public funding for new theatre ventures has virtually collapsed.

**July 16, 1997:** I hear that I've got a lottery grant to form a company: £5,000. Jet Theatre exists, and *The Deceived* can happen! I just need about another £20,000, so I send off 300 letters asking for sponsorship, to everyone from City livery companies to spaghetti manufacturers.

**July 4:** I've lined up a London theatre — the main house of the Riverside Studios. It has to be hired and they charge £3,000 a week.

**Sept 21:** Everything seems to be about money, which is slow coming in. Rejections from the Arts Council, London Arts Board and most of the trusts. I fire off a series of letters to influential people.

**Oct 1:** A letter from Adrian Noble at the RSC. "Dear Ken, Oh dear, this is an absolutely heart-breaking story. I honestly don't know what to suggest. It is without question an absolutely nightmare time trying to raise money; everybody's in competition with everybody else . . ."

**Oct 5:** The pre-London tour is almost lined up. Meanwhile, my board of directors advises that I find a patron whose name will add prestige when I write for money. There is one obvious choice. I phone Lindy King, the agent of my former student, Ewan McGregor, to ask if she will send my letter inviting him to be patron. She agrees.

**Oct 12:** What joy! A cheque arrives from the Haberdashers' Company. Not all the money is raised but I must decide now whether to give up or take the risk and go ahead. I'll go ahead. Who dares wins.

**Oct 14:** I attend the BT National Connections press launch. The BT executive tells us how generous BT has been, but when I corner the PR lady and make a pitch for BT subsidising Jet Theatre's schools workshops, she backs away nervously. I talk to Trevor Nunn about sponsorship, casually adding that my own group finds it difficult to break into the field. I mention my letter to him. He adopts a pained expression and says how sorry he is for us. I move on to a bracing meeting with Phillip Spedding at the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. It all sounds so easy.

**Oct 26:** No reaction from Ewan to my invitation for him to be patron. When I phone his agent to make sure he got the letter a man says: "Lindy's too busy to speak to you."

**Nov 1:** My wife wakes up and says: "I want you to put the house in my name."

**Nov 11:** The Italian Ambassador has accepted my invitation to the press night. I utter a series of joyous yelps. I'm not usually like this.

**Nov 17:** In Tottenham Court Road I pass a young beggar who asks for change. Hurrying on, I brood on the fact that I am doing basically the same thing, with basically the same results. I stop, walk back 50 yards and give him a pound.

**Nov 18:** An avalanche of invoices starts to pour through my letterbox.

**Nov 24:** I meet Ewan McGregor after his stirring performance in *Little Malcolm* at Hampstead. I buy him a beer, we chat over old times and I raise the subject of my letter inviting him to be patron. He never received it. Silently, I curse his agent. Nevertheless, he agrees on the spot to be the patron of Jet Theatre. We down our beers and go out into the night.

**Nov 26:** As I walk through the City, Phillip Spedding's words from the ABSA meeting toll in my ears: "We know the money's out there. There was £95 million poured into the arts last year. It's just a matter of finding it." But where, Phillip?

**Nov 28:** A final phone call, then I punch the air and tell my wife I've got my cast together: ten really good actors. She suggests a cup of tea.

**Dec 2:** The first day of rehearsal. Everyone seems so happy to be working. After lunch I open a bottle of champagne to celebrate just having got this far.

**Dec 7:** A meeting with my bank manager. He won't give Jet Theatre an overdraft facility, but he's quite happy for me to fund it from my personal overdraft, once my savings run out. "I can never understand what makes you people want to do it," he says with a smile.

**Dec 12:** A week of rehearsals left. One of my older actors confesses to me that he had a nervous breakdown three months ago. He thinks the symptoms are coming back and he can't go on. "I'm worried I might do a runner on the opening night," he tells me. I start phoning around to search for a 50-year-old actor who can start immediately.

**Dec 23:** Rehearsals have finished for the year. Our new actor has learnt the entire role within a week. What a pro!

**Dec 31:** My wife's birthday card to me depicts a man walking a tightrope into thin air.

**Jan 5, 1999:** Opening night at the Hawth in Crawley. The audience loves the show.

**Jan 14:** What a difference a few performances make. The production is growing beautifully as the actors relax into it. It's tighter, funnier and more poignant: a celebration of love, sex and romance. But behind the scenes there is a temporary cash flow problem until we get paid from last week's theatres.

**Jan 15:** After a rousing performance to a packed house in Walton-on-Thames I tell the actors they may have to wait a few days for this week's pay. They are pretty upset. I promise to find the money.

**Jan 18:** While the set goes up at the Riverside Studios I'm still preoccupied with raising money. But against the odds, we've got a new company off the ground and the performances, so far, have gone over a treat. You take a risk and lay yourself open. Then, if you were right, you bask in the warmth of laughter and applause. Sheer madness.

● The Deceived *opens tonight at the Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111)*

# Staging a brave battle

Lodged deep in the memories of successive generations of British schoolchildren, William Golding's much-loved moral parable, which pokes a pitiless finger at the untutored actions of a group of boys stranded on a desert island, is hardly the easiest work to bring to the stage. Though they battle bravely, Pilot Theatre Company fail to work the necessary miracle.

Based on his earlier adaptation for the RSC, Nigel Williams's script stays close to the text, retaining much of the dialogue and emphasising the pervasive allegory — the nature of unaccommodated man, the need for society to subjugate savagery, the struggle between democracy and autocracy, the roots of intolerance and war.

Inevitably, though, much is lost in the translation, and the production does not always help to restore it. Far from giving a sense of the beautiful cruelty of a tropical Eden, the vaguely futuristic set makes few concessions to plausibility. In this case it is surely a basic requirement. The excellent lighting helps; the incessant smoke does not, nor the pumping soundtrack, all dance beats, electronic bleeps and garbled speech, which at best distracts and at worst drowns out the actors' voices.

THEATRE
**Lord of the Flies**
Lyric, Hammersmith

At least Marcus Romer's direction pulls no punches, and lands a good few. The atmosphere of fervid intensity never lets up, and it all becomes genuinely grisly towards the end. There is plenty of vim in the fights and chases, though they go on too long.

The committed young actors put their all in. Neville Hutton as the porky democrat Piggy, stubbornly but fatefully insistent on the importance of meetings and the rules of debate, and Jonah Russell as the compromised but honourable Everyman figure Ralph, are both persuasive. Danny Nutt as Jack pulls off the hard task of making a plausible transformation from self-satisfied choir prefect to sinister and murderous tyrant, though he is a bit too fey to be entirely convincing. All are hamstrung by being a good decade older than the book requires.

NIGEL CLIFF

# A peep through lace curtains

**COMEDY: Clive Davis** meets the man behind John Shuttleworth, the bumbling bard of Sheffield

Failure can sometimes be as good as success. That truth is illustrated by the acclaim for John Shuttleworth, the bumbling bard of Sheffield. Armed with a cheap electric keyboard, some gloriously inept ditties and a fund of DIY philosophy, the middle-aged ex-security guard understands the hopes and dreams of anyone who has wasted an afternoon in a quest for a packet of No 6 countersunk screws. Forget Mondeo Man. We are talking Austin Ambassador Man.

With his keyboard safely stowed away on the back seat, he has embarked on another national tour which includes a five-day stint amid the hurly-burly of Swinging London next week. The new show goes under the banner of *Ken's Karvery*, a title inspired by the eaterie run by Shuttleworth's fictional manager Ken Worthington.

Graham Fellows, aka John Shuttleworth, is the actor who dreamt up this inspired parallel suburb. He was still working on the script in a Soho café last week. In front of him, an A4 pad was covered in scribbled thoughts and half-thoughts. A few minutes after I sat opposite him, he contrived to spill his glass of Coke across the whole lot.

Fellows — known to a generation of pop fans as the eternal loser Jilted John — slips in and out of character throughout the interview. When he is being himself, a frown invariably peeping out from under his blond fringe, he speaks in a measured, slightly lugubrious voice. Shuttleworth is more halting, tossing out an idea and then circling it and prodding it in his timorous Yorkshire accent. When I mention that I have had trouble replacing my tape recorder he spins off on a beautifully detailed bit of whimsy on the theme of Whatever Happened To Rumbelows?

He once described his subject as "people with nothing to say who say it anyway". He picks up ideas everywhere, from a conversation overheard in the street to the request spot on the Steve Wright radio show. At home in Louth in Lincolnshire, he is always peeping through the metaphorical lace curtains, so it comes as no surprise to learn that he is a fan of Alan Bennett.

He enjoys pondering the connection. "Bennett probably spent a lot of time in boarding houses and the Brontë Rooms of posh hotels. John Shuttleworth is more used to walking the dog in poorly equipped parks. He's genteel but he's trying to embrace the younger generation and all these modern things like cappuccinos and mini-disc players."

The first eccentric seeds were planted in Fellows's youth. Having parents who were naturists obviously provided him with a head-start. He found more inspiration working behind the bar of a working men's club, chuckling to himself when the punters asked for "a Mackeson in a lady's glass".

He also became a committed breeder of mice, travelling the locality with elderly enthusiasts who displayed all the deadly earnestness of miniature Shuttleworths. He once won second prize for his pink-eyed white.



Actor Graham Fellows, creator of John Shuttleworth

After seeing Alan Rickman perform at the Crucible, Fellows decided that his future lay in acting. He studied at Manchester Polytechnic School of Theatre (whose alumni include David Threlfall and Steve Coogan) but his ambitions were derailed by his unexpected success as a pseudo-punk rocker with Jilted John in 1978.

Every pop fan of a certain age knows the derisive chant "Gordon is a moron". Looking back, Fellows regards it all as a distraction from the stage. Being signed to a fair-shares-for-all "pseudo-Marxist" record label meant that he earned no more than his drummer. And Jilted John remained a one-hit wonder.

Returning to acting, he muddled along, somehow managing to appear twice in *Coronation Street* as two separate characters. ("I kept quiet about my first appearance when I went back," he says, a sly smile on his face. "I'd like to go back a third time — maybe as Ashley Peacock's half-brother.")

After a spell in the doldrums, Fellows first took Shuttleworth to the Edinburgh Fringe in 1992. Since then there have been sell-out tours, several excellent series on Radio 4 and some distinctive but rather more uneven TV programmes.

Fellows is still tempted by the challenge of re-creating his characters on the screen, but he sees the advantage of relying on the power of words and the audience's imagination. It is one thing, he says, to sing the praises of making blanket boxes out of distressed pine; on TV, you have to let people see them, and that is never, ever as funny.

He keeps his distance from the media goldfish bowl. The man who parodied punk worries about the mindlessness of much of our popular culture. So much so, in fact, that he has refused to appear on *The Big Breakfast* or *TFI Friday*. Good for him.

Chris Evans, he explains with a crisp Evans-ism, is "part of this dumbing down conspiracy on television. I can't stand it. The more people like Michael Palin go on *TFI Friday*, the more that dumbing down becomes entrenched."

Soon it will be time to head back to Lincolnshire, his home for the past four years. It is a long journey, and he and his wife had almost been snowed in that morning. But can you imagine Shuttleworth with a pied-à-terre in Bayswater?

"I walk down the street in the morning, and the butcher is standing on the street with his hands on his hips," Fellows says, almost dreamily. "People from Grimsby used to call Louth Trumpton Town. But I like living there. It shows you society working as it should."

● Ken's Karvery, *Bloomsbury Theatre, London (0171-388 8822), Jan 26-30. Further tour dates include Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham (01242 572573) Jan 31; City Varieties, Leeds (0113 2430808) Feb 3; Civic, Doncaster (01302 342340) Feb 4; Neptune Theatre, Liverpool (0151 709 7844) Feb 5*

# Weird side of the street

First, the company: Theatre de Complicite, playing on Shaftesbury Avenue for the first time, internationally renowned these 15 years for entering and presenting the inmost life of characters, animating inanimate objects, and turning text, performance, sound and a whirlwind physicality into strong, dreamlike beauty.

**The Street of Crocodiles**
Queen's

Now the author: Simon McBurney and Mark Wheatley have drawn on the life and writings of Bruno Schulz, born 1892 in Austrian Galicia and shot by a Nazi 50 years later in what had then become Poland (and is now Ukraine). He wrote only short stories, but in their dense, intoxicating sentences are recreated the physical feel and spiritual ache of a way of life that was disintegrating even as Schulz experienced it as a boy. *The Street of Crocodiles* is that area of his town, Drohobycz, already nastily modernised and bereft of the marvels, not to say magic, that he records as daily occurrences in the family home.

First performed at the National Theatre in 1992, the show has been influenced in its newest incarnation by the memories of survivors, mainly in New York, who were taught by Schulz, knew him or, in one extraordinary re-encounter, helped to bury his shattered body. Again the staging stretches back to the theatre's far wall down which, near the start of the play, a mackintoshed figure slowly walks, disrupting our sense of space through 90 degrees and serving as herald to the fragments of time lost that will jostle through the mind of Joseph, Schulz's alter ego.

Played by the gaunt Cesar Sarachu, whose narrow head suggests a permanently astonished Stone Age flint, Joseph is sorting books in Nazi-occupied Poland when the memories whirl upon him. And in true Complicite fashion, since Joseph's Father (Matthew Scurfield) takes a mad delight in his aviary, the books become flapping birds, held aloft in the performers' hands. A flock of birds sweeps over the stage, sending Joseph in flight before them.

To be brutally frank, Joseph is more weird than wonderful, likewise his Father, and it is permissible to feel that this production contains too many notes. But throughout the evening a movement in unison, a sudden emptying of the stage, a tremor of music (Lutoslawski, Schnittke) like a memory heard through a prism: such images and graces crystallise one man's peculiar experience into a vision to be shared by all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

# Moral bypass

After half an hour of watching the hateful people in Rebecca Gilman's **The Glory of Living** at the Ambassadors, I longed to be rid of the lot of them, *Jeremy Kingston writes*. Scene followed scene, grubby motel rooms became squalid trailers after a swift rearrangement of the unmade beds; now the beds are in Tennessee, next in Georgia — not that you can tell the difference between one place and another, nor does the 17-year-old Lisa (played by Monica Dolan) seem to care where she is as she toils the roads looking for younger girls to feed her husband's rape habit.

Fuller details of his requirements slither towards us as one scene reveals the bruises across Lisa's back, the next finds a waif chained to the bed, another the presence of a gun, until eventually Lisa's phone calls to the police blurt out instructions where to find dead bodies. Tony Curran's horrifying Clint, the big man in her life, quickly establishes himself as brutally committed to Male Supremacy, and subsequent scenes only extend the limits of his brutality. I couldn't wait for him to be arrested and sent to the chair.

The police break in during an attempted rape in Alabama, and in the printed text this is a division between acts and the point where an interval would normally occur. Kathryn Hunter's production provides no interval. Scenes that have been smoothly segueing into each other now segue into police territory, and Lisa is content to reveal details of her life with Clint. I say "content" because she is evidently not reluctant to do this, yet what Gilman reveals for us, and is so powerfully expressed in Dolan's performance, is her frightening moral apathy.

It scares the police, it churns up the assumptions of her lawyer (Lorcan Cranitch, excellent) and it worries Lisa not at all. Soon we learn that it is not Clint who killed his victims, and that he may even escape being charged with rape. Has Lisa been traumatised by terror? It seems not. Gilman's exploration of this forlorn young creature's assumptions becomes more and more absorbing.

The repugnance generated by the opening scenes allows the unanticipated emotions of the second half to achieve their full effect. Hunter is right to lead directly from one to the other in this unexpectedly subtle drama.

# BOOKS

# Patience after apartheid

## F. W. de Klerk was born to power in South Africa but relinquished it gracefully, says R. W. Johnson

The full irony of how Frederik de Klerk became the midwife of black majority rule in South Africa is not always appreciated outside the country. For if anyone was born to rule, it was he. When he was only 12 his father masterminded the National Party's sweeping victory in the Transvaal which was the basis of the great victory of 1948. His uncle, the NP's Transvaal leader, Hans Strijdom, became a Cabinet minister and, in 1954, Prime Minister — appointing Jan de Klerk, F. W.'s father, a senator and a Cabinet minister. Jan — a passionate conservative, was one of the architects of apartheid and though he narrowly failed to be elected President in 1967, became president of the Senate and thus Acting President on occasion. As a child, F. W. would not only visit his uncle in the prime ministerial residences but would go on holiday with the PM and with the later State President, "Blackie" Swart. To top it all, his elder brother, Wimpie, was the editor of Verwoerd's old paper, *Die Transvaler*. F. W. naturally became an MP and was soon a Cabinet minster under Vorster — in whose Cabinet his father too had served.

All this is worth remembering as one reads about F. W.'s extremely difficult relationship with Mandela. Over and over again he recounts how Mandela would be all charm and reasonableness one minute and would then bitterly denounce him, often for things he had not done, the next. Worse, Mandela would give solemn commitments which he would simply walk away from and would repeatedly embarrass international

THE LAST TREK — A NEW BEGINNING
The Autobiography
**By F. W. de Klerk**
Macmillan, £20
ISBN 0 333 73264 2



hosts that they were meeting together by launching into long, personal tirades against de Klerk which de Klerk would patiently refrain from replying to. Mandela, de Klerk concluded, had a lot more bitterness welling up in him than was popularly supposed. But after what Africans had gone through under apartheid — not to mention what Mandela had personally gone through — it was always likely that someone was going to face a good deal of personally unreasonable behaviour as a result. De Klerk was actually a perfect representative of the Afrikaner ruling class and no doubt Mandela and his men could feel that such behaviour was historically, if not personally, deserved.

Although de Klerk is admirably frank and openly apologetic about apartheid there are still moments in this book when one wonders how sensitive he was to such feelings. He describes President Swart, for example, as "a very kind man". Others will remember him for ever as a towering 6 ft 7 in giant standing up in the Senate brandishing a *sjambok* and saying that what certain Africans needed was a great deal more of it.

De Klerk had to put up with a great deal more from his predecessor, P. W. Botha. Botha emerges from these pages not just as an overweening bully but simply as mad. De Klerk recounts how he went to see Botha in retirement to seek his co-operation in formulating the NP's submission to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission*. Botha then claimed to be able to prove the existence of a sinister conspiracy called the New World Order, saying that de Klerk himself had been manipulated into joining it by Pik Botha and George Bush.

De Klerk recounts in injured tones how he became the target of opportunity for all those — the TRC's Desmond Tutu and Alex Boraine chief among them — who wished to play to the gallery by trying to harass him in to admissions of complicity in the under-cover activities of "third force" elements within the securtiy forces, and how he had to put up with Judge Richard Goldstone, to whom he had given great power and prominence, grandstanding to the media. Certainly, it must have taken extraordinary patience to have guided the State through the turbulence of 1990-94 with the constitutional negotiations constantly at risk from the rising tide of violence and every sort of interest group tearing at his coat-tails.

In the end, de Klerk has always been able to defend himself fairly convincingly against the charges of "third force" complicity — though, as he argues here, a number of powerful people quite close to him must have lied to him at crucial points. Indeed, no evidence has ever come to light which links the top brass, military or political, with the murderous hit squads operating at ground level. But then some things do remain secret: de Klerk, for example, offers no explanation as to why he protected many leading members of the ANC from exposure for having worked as informers for the apartheid regime.

De Klerk stands by his record in virtually every respect but admits that he failed to deliver the powersharing and federal model he constantly promised his supporters. Instead, he argues, the ANC's overweening majoritarianism produces "exactly the kind of alienation, division and mounting rage which now threatens our future success." He places his hopes on a complete reformation of the party system after the 1999 election.

His problem is that he was both the leader of his party and the father of transition. He feels the need to defend both, though he remains the target not only of those who fear the failure of either the party or the transition but also of the beneficiaries of transition. For they want to claim the transition as their victory and they are maddened by the sight of a Boer leader receiving the plaudits of the world — Nobel Prize and all — for having given them what they would rather have taken.

MICHAEL POWELL



De Klerk feels he has become a victim of the media in post-apartheid South Africa

# A long way from Walden

Nature exists as it does for us because we have named and perceived it as such. We have no other way of grasping the world but through our own perception of it. It is odd, therefore, that it has become a stick with which we berate ourselves for being the successful, colonising species that we are, and that we had to have been in order to take such a patronising view of nature or anything else. Barry Lopez has collected together essays about his relations with the natural world which include coral spotting in the Caribbean, a trip to a famed beauty spot in Japan and driving around the United States.

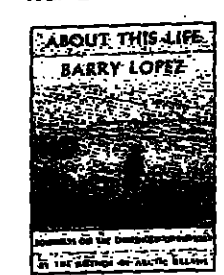
What the essays have in common is his perception of a world that has been depleted of what is pure and unsullied by the greed of human materialism. His mood is mostly mournful, his meditations are on loss, his congratulations and his hopes are with those few individuals he finds who are trying to retrieve a concept of some ancient affinity between man and the planet.

There is a simplistic dichotomy decried throughout the book between consumption and communion. A few naifs, shaman-like, retain a capacity to do nature homage: a kiln-firer, untutored local historians and geographers, and Lopez himself. But for the most part people drive heartlessly past road kills, lose a sense of natural time (what is that?) by flying material goods all around the planet, and are disdained themselves for disdaining life by cutting down trees that house birds and insects because they want a bigger lawn.

Whatever is difficult to achieve, especially if it might have been done more easily, is applauded by Lopez. Indeed, difficulty itself is applauded, but only provided it appears to be natural difficulty. He is a pastoral mystic, entranced by the possibility of the salvific in his contact with nature, and for him illumination comes only through naivete. But why should we expect nature to provide salvation for our very natural failings? And who is it

JENNY DISKI

ABOUT THIS LIFE
**By Barry Lopez**
Harvill, £12
ISBN 1 86046 565 X




that supposes anyone beyond themselves requires saving?

The language is hushed and reverential and yet the feeling that comes across is of narcissism, as in a long essay that tells a rather overwrought and breathless tale of the biography of his own hands. The picture one gets of Barry Lopez from his own words is of a modern day Henry Thoreau tramping through the wild to proclaim humanity a poor thing compared with a ponderosa tree.

It is, however, a sentimental, deeply reactionary response to a world that contains computers making cyber-connections between individuals, as well as trees; where children die from road deaths and hunger, as well as furry animals. To privilege certain tragedies and joys over others is to be half-blind to the world.

For Lopez, only a self-denying hero "makes the ordinary venality and inevitable shallowness of so much in human affairs — the coarseness and greed of life, the failure of ideals, the withering of our aspirations — seem forgivable, even inconsequential." How extraordinary for Lopez to feel himself in a position to forgive or let pass the failings of humanity. What arrogance. What a terrible distance from humanity it suggests.

*Jenny Diski's book,* Skating To Antarctica, *is published by Granta, priced £6.99*

# Remember Dorothy

This biography of Dorothy Hodgkin, née Crowfoot, who died in 1994 at the age of 84, is the tale of an ostensibly ordinary, yet actually extraordinary, individual. She was a chemist, then an X-ray crystallographer and the first and thus far only British woman to win a Nobel Prize for science. Georgina Ferry paints a vivid portrait of a woman passionately concerned to resolve the enigmas of chemical structures. She married, had three children, campaigned for socialist causes and peace, yet at the same time ran a laboratory in which flourished a number of other exceptional crystallographers under her tolerant yet authoritative leadership.

Her lab was referred to as "a haven of gender equality" and she encouraged many other women to enter the field. It seems, however, that her own children suffered from a certain amount of, not neglect, but lack of maternal attention, and it is clear that she could not have managed her research without a team of helpers — nannies, housekeepers and tenants — readily available in those days. We are led along the path of her life in meticulous detail, since Ferry has done her research in enormous depth.

The young Dorothy became one of the few girls reading chemistry at Somerville College, Oxford, in the late 1920s. Much credit must be given to the college as it emerges that she was staunchly supported there, both as a student and as a Fellow. It is amazing to discover that Dorothy remained a college Fellow for many years with no university post until finally being appointed to a lowly demonstratorship. This although she was already established as a crystallographer of international standing. She was ultimately elevated to the status of Wolfson Professor, but not until 1960.

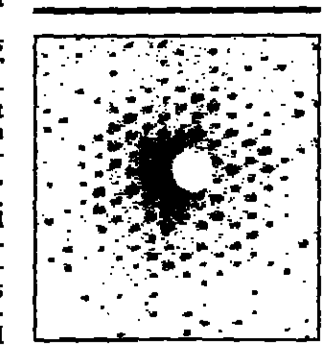
Crucial to her development was a post-doctoral fellowship in the lab of "Sage" Bernal in Cambridge. Sage, a left-wing chemist, was hugely influential over all those engaged in

NANCY LANE



DOROTHY HODGKIN
A Life
**By Georgina Ferry**
Granta, £20
ISBN 1 86207 167 5





One of Dorothy Hodgkin's early insulin patterns

the early studies of crystal structure; he was also undoubtedly a charismatic man, and had a wide circle of women friends, lovers and colleagues, of whom, Ferry makes clear, Dorothy was one. Dorothy's marriage to Thomas Hodgkin in 1937 changed, but did not impair, her friendship and collaboration with Sage, which lasted until his death.

One of the first few women elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1947, given the Society's Royal Medal in 1956, and awarded a Nobel Prize in 1964 for solving the structures of penicillin and vitamin B12, Dorothy received the OM in 1965 and subsequently many other honours. Her important work for peace occurred in her latter years. Made an honorary Fellow of my own College, Girton, in Cambridge, she was unfailingly friendly and interested in our Fellowship; we felt fortunate to meet her. A fascinating study of the development of UK crystallography during the 20th century, this book is, moreover, an extremely enjoyable read. One could carp at the occasional inaccuracy — Fred Sanger, OM, a double Nobel laureate, never accepted a knighthood — but these are rare. One is left with a memorable picture of a gentle woman of exceptional talent. "A Life", indeed.

*Nancy Lane is a cell biologist at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Girton College.*

OXFORD & COUNTY NEWSPAPERS



Hodgkin with children Toby, Liz and Luke on her election to the Royal Society, 1947

**Rachel Campbell-Johnston** admires Geoffrey Hill

# Laurel for an epic vision

THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE
**By Geoffrey Hill**
Penguin, £8.99
ISBN 0 140 58910 4

Amid eager surmise about who will take up the post of Poet Laureate the name of Geoffrey Hill seldom comes up — which is odd, since Geoffrey Hill has not infrequently been praised as Britain's greatest living poet. Immersed in native traditions, in what his fellow poet Donald Davie once described as patriotism — and I doubt that any less decisive word would do — he assumes Eliot's mantle as the scribe of our times. He insinuates himself into the fissure between history and prophecy, between stalwart reason and fierce vision. His work drives a wedge into complacency, cracking apart spaces of imagination and analysis. Of course, what precisely the role of the Laureate should be is open to argument. But if one of its purposes is to introduce the public to the wider purposes of poetry, then surely Hill should be under consideration.

And yet Hill's protracted new poem is evidence enough of why he is unlikely to be chosen. *The Triumph of Love* is about as far from fashion or opportunism as it is possible to be. To attempt to trace its filigreed narrative too literally would be a rudeness and an ill-return for the respect which Hill pays his readers in his assumption of a cross-referencing knowledge. This long soliloquy, spoken, characteristically, out of the outrage of "a stubborn old man", is armoured with learning.

Petrarch, Milton, Junger, Kokoschka, the Bletchley code breakers, the prophet Daniel, the martyr St Kenelm, Neville Chamberlain and Ralph Waldo Emerson join guiding angels in an epic cast. Hill's railing meditations roam across continents, creeds and disciplines: from Romsey to Chickamauga, from Judaism to Anglicanism, from politics to painting to philosophy. His terrain is the moral landscape of history: the corruptions of the church, the terrors of the Holocaust, the betrayals of war.

Hill argues with the Jesuitical rigour of one who, never having spared himself, will not spare others. There are no excuses. "To have lost dignity/ is not the same/ as to be humble," he insists. And his refusal to accept platitudes is discomfiting. But "for hardness of heart read costly dislike of cant", he explains.

Yet his aim is not condemnation but, like some Old Testament prophet, to crack open the conscience of the past, to awaken in a new generation the sensibility of the pain and sympathy that bring clarity of spirit. "Ingratitude/ still gets to me, the unfairness/ and waste of survival; a nation/ with so many memorials but no memory."

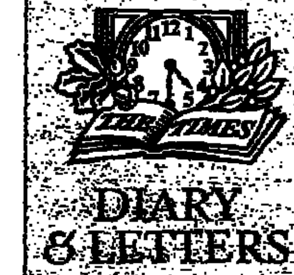
Only by banishing this ingratitude, he suggests, can we fit into our historical context and find the dignity of love. The harsh terrain that he stumbles across comes increasingly to be seen "in cross section" as "rock strata" in which "particular grace,/ individual love, decency, endurance,/ are traceable across the faults".

Hill chisels at the rockface of language: "The struggle/ for a noble vernacular: this/ did not end with Petrarch", he writes. *The Triumph of Love* displays little of the mellifluous rhythms, the elegaic lyricism that haunts his earlier works. Rather, exacting, academic, unbending, it creates an unyielding memorial. It reveals a man who would not bend to the public demands of a laureateship, but is all the more worth reading for that.

## Bloomin' Bletchley

■ **Those Bletchley code breakers still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Mavis Batey, who made an appearance on Channel 4's *Station X* on Tuesday — recalling her days as a clever cracker in Buckinghamshire — went on to less anonymous glory as a garden historian with her book *Jane Austen and the English Landscape*, among others. In the autumn of this year she will continue her decryption of the countryside with *Alexander Pope: Poetry and Landscape*, to be published by Barn Elms — who also gave us *Jane* — in September.**

■ *Today a solemn conclave of judges meets at Coutts Bank in the Strand to choose the winner of the £30,000 David Cohen Prize for British Literature 1999. The prize is given every two years to a writer for his or her life's work, and the three winners so far have been V.S.Naipaul, Harold Pinter and Muriel Spark. The Savonarola-like chairman, the poet Andrew Motion, has wrung a solemn vow of secrecy about their deliberations from his 12 jurymen, who include Hermione Lee and Roy Foster and the actress Janet Suzman, and so far he has managed to keep them to it. But the prizegiving does not take place until March 18. Will they crack before then?*




■ **Now a trades union has taken up the cause of the sacked Oxford poets. On February 3, the managerial union MSF is organising a protest reading of 20 poets at the swinging Freud Café in Oxford, cheek by jowl with the OUP building in Walton Street. Non-OUP poets are lending their support, and James Fenton and Tom Paulin will be there. The union is also concened with redundancies of other OUP staff, including the editor of the art history series. The reading is at 7.30 — but we are told it is already a sell-out.**

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# BOOKS

## Death doesn't always dress in black

Why are artists so often pale and interesting? Tuberculosis afflicted Chopin, Molière and Lawrence — and kills still



Peter Ackroyd

When John Keats saw the scarlet stain upon his handkerchief, he was also looking upon his own death. "Bring me a candle," he asked, "and let me see this blood." It was arterial blood, the vivid fruit of tuberculosis, otherwise known as consumption or the wasting sickness.

The disease, according to this absorbing if necessarily morbid history, has an illustrious provenance. It can be detected in prehistoric skeletons, and in 16th-century accounts of the King's Evil. But it really blossomed in the 19th century when it became the subject of art, opera and literature. It has enjoyed many curtain calls since, of course, and continued its dramatic career well into the 20th century within the impassioned works of George Orwell and D. H. Lawrence.

It was sometimes called "the white plague" or "the white death"; white is the colour of innocence or virginity and tuberculosis seemed unnervingly to strike, in the words of Thomas Dormandy, "the pure, the innocent and the beloved". Necessarily, too, there were religious connotations. It is significant and appropriate that both St Bernadette and St Teresa of Lisieux should join the ranks of the tubercular, since the disease itself seemed to encourage preternaturally vivid sensations; the fact that both ladies were part of a closed order of nuns, where the rate of infection was equalled only by that among prison inmates, may also have a bearing upon the matter.

But from the roll-call of the doomed and dying enumerated in this study, it would seem that tuberculosis had an especial fondness for artists and writers. Molière expired offstage while by unfortunate paradox playing the lead role in *Le malade imaginaire*; Spinoza collapsed under its burden, while Watteau died while painting pictures in the air with his finger. This may be an example of that "acutely heightened awareness" which tuberculosis can evoke, as well as a "foolish gaiety" in those that know they are coughing up their lifeblood.

Chopin and Schubert both heard unearthly melodies heralded by that cough, and it seems possible that the disease actively shaped the imaginations of those who had contracted it. It is hard to say how much of Paganini's extraordinarily vivacious playing came from his battle against death, but it is clear enough how consumption materially affected the fatal gloom of Orwell's *1984* as well as the hypersensitive fury of D.H. Lawrence's later works. Tuberculosis is one of those diseases which, in all its manifest phases, seems to illuminate the human condition itself.

*The White Death* is a model of how medical history ought to be written, lucid in its analysis and perspicacious in its commentary. The chapters on pathological symptoms are not for the squeamish, although they do have an astringent effect upon a narrative which is almost too readable for its subject. Dormandy's account of the research into the causes of TB has all the pace of a dramatic narrative, however, while the incidental players are brought to life with great panache. The author complains at one point that medical geniuses are hardly ever remembered, unlike their musical or literary counterparts, but in this narrative he has done much to redress the balance.

The medical profession itself, however, hardly emerges in a flattering light. Dormandy is a pathologist and regular contributor to *The Lancet*, but he is not kind to his forefathers. The history of medicine, in this account, is the history of vanity and ignorance. Apart from the few genuine researchers whose efforts are celebrated, most of the doctors in this history are revealed as quacks and charlatans who tried to conceal their ignorance with a condescending or imperious manner and obfuscatory language.

There were a bewildering number of treatments, many of them injurious or even fatal to the patient — the various injections into the windpipe, for example, included "olive oil, iodides, dyes, creosote, copper cyanvirate and pig-spleen extracts". The truth is that most doctors simply did not know what they were doing; with all the false authority of an impressive manner, they misdiagnosed and mistreated many thousands of consumptives. The most disturbing chapters in this book are concerned with the grotesque surgical experiments of the 19th and 20th centuries when the chests of patients were blown up with air or ripped to pieces. As with the more recent epidemic of Aids, doctors made a speciality of killing rather than curing. Wherever victims of illness hear the words "expert" or "specialist", they should reach for their guns.

The book concludes with the unhappy warning that tuberculosis in its modern forms is "as untreatable as it had been when Keats had his first haemorrhage". In its arrivals and departures it remains as elusive and as inexplicable as ever. Despite medical advances, despite research and experiment, despite the self-confident pronouncements of scientists and physicians, the very stuff and texture of this mortal illness are still not understood. In that sense, as in many others, this extraordinary history may teach a little humility before the mysteries of life and of death.

THE WHITE DEATH
A History of Tuberculosis
**By Thomas Dormandy**
Hambledon, £25
ISBN 1 85285 169 4

## Into the counter culture

Mathematics is more than just numbers, says **Marcus du Sautoy**

THE UNIVERSAL HISTORY OF NUMBERS
**By Georges Ifrah**
Harvill, £19.99
ISBN 1 86046 324 X



"Where do numbers come from?" *The Universal History of Numbers* is Georges Ifrah's monumental answer to the innocent question posed one day by a pupil in his mathematics lesson. Like many innocent questions that children can so easily ask, the answer demands a journey through the philosophical and cultural development of human thought.

Ifrah shies away from the deep philosophical questions lying at the heart of where numbers come from, preferring instead to tell the story of the historical development of the notation that we use for our numbers. The current publication is the first full translation into English (by David Bellof, E. F. Harding, Sophie Wood and Ian Monk) of the original French text which was published almost 20 years ago, but it now includes new material based on recent archaeological developments.

It is a fascinating journey taking us through many different cultures. As Ifrah writes: "To know how a people counts is to know what kind of people it is." For example, the achievement of Mayan civilisation is reflected in its rich number system used to chart time, which combined numbers in base 13 and base 20. These numbers have their origins in subtle movements of the Sun. At the other extreme, European culture comes off particularly badly in its resistance to the adoption of the number system we use today, brought by the Arabs from India. They remained wedded to Roman numerals despite the obvious difficulty that you soon encounter if you try to add CCLXVI and DCLIX.



IZHAR COHEN

The development of a notation for zero, Ifrah contends, is one of the greatest achievements in the history of thought. It seems to have been independently discovered by three cultures in various different manifestations: the Babylonians, the Mayas and the Indians. For European culture the idea of zero came from India via the Arabs — although it was regarded as a thing of the devil and to be avoided at all costs. The word "cipher" comes from the ancient word for zero and revives the memory of a time when zero was a dangerous secret that could have you burnt at the stake.

As interesting a story as this is, as a mathematician I find it an unsatisfactory record of the universal history of numbers. No musician would be happy with a history of music that gave only an account of the origins of the current notation used to write down music: there is a great deal more to it than that. There is so much music in the history of numbers that is not even mentioned — for example, the behaviour of the prime numbers, which still remains one of the greatest mysteries of modern mathematics. Perhaps it is unfair to demand such a history, since the account of the origins of the notation itself takes some 600 pages.

However, it is one of the tragedies of the teaching of mathematics in schools that too many people are left with the impression that mathematics is all about such notation and research is at best long division to many decimal places. This book is an impressive record of where this notation comes from. But it is not for those who want to hear some of the truly beautiful music of mathematics.

## Making a map for a nation with no borders

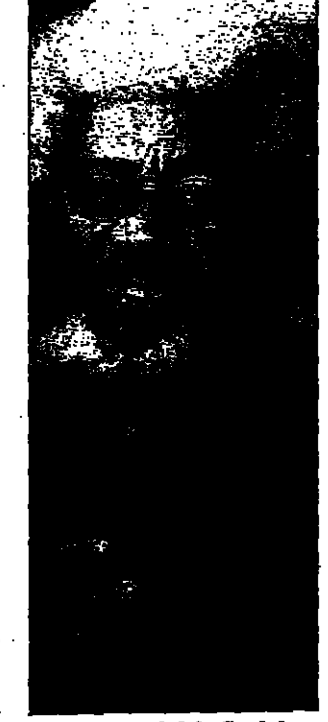
The first of the three essays in ***The Burden of Memory, the Muse of Forgiveness*** by Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka (OUP, £16.99; ISBN 0 19 512205 4) deconstructs South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This noble but flawed experiment he sees as a crucible for all post-colonial African states, and runs the theme through the other essays — on the Senegalese poet, scholar and statesman Leopold Senghor, and "Negritude". Soyinka seems to identify forgiveness as being uniquely African, but without applauding it.

For how can truth without justice ever be a satisfying condition for reconciliation? If a moral society deplores the application of retroactive law, then how can pardoning crime through retroactive dispensation be acceptable? As South Africa teeters on the brink of the same chaos that has engulfed other African nations it is also in danger of sharing the same destiny unless reparations are paid. "The victims are alive and in need of rehabilitation while their violators . . . pursue a privileged existence, secure in the spoils of their sordid history."

There are difficulties with this concept, however. How would "reconstitution after dispossession" work in countries where there is often no clear division between victim and victimiser? In South Africa the stand-off between whites and blacks has transmogrified into a stand-off between coloureds and blacks; Muslim fundamentalists versus the gangsters. Widespread collaboration with the European colonialists has helped to engender "new slavemasters in military uniform" who would simply squirrel away the spoils into their own offshore vaults.

His second essay, on Leopold Senghor, is driven by the same preoccupation with forgiveness. Senghor is a failed clergyman, who preached in verse. The parallel Soyinka draws with how Senghor's missed calling worked itself out in his poetry, and Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham City Jail* is a bold imaginative leap. By saying "I accuse, but I forgive", both men anticipated the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. King was pardoning white America while Senghor was granting France absolution; whether Soyinka approves of Senghor's Francophilia is difficult to assess, in part because his own writing is so overwrought that it is hard to see the wood for the trees.

In the third essay, on "Negritude", he asks: "What is Africa?" by first tracing the sources of nationalist amnesia: Marxism, Freudianism, Surrealism, and the camps of the assimilationists like Senghor and the rejectionists, like Léon Damas. But what is finally positive about the diaspora is the handshakes between the arts. Just as you can hear flamenco licks in West African mbalax and Cuban salsa, the literature of Francophone Africa and the Francophone Caribbean not only cross-fertilised each other but also the literature of the Harlem Renaissance. A similar crossover never really took place between the Anglophone Caribbean and black America on the one hand and Anglophone Africa on the other, because unlike France, Britain had no intention of sharing its ancestry with its African subjects.



Truth first: Wole Soyinka

A black culture now exists independent of place. Soyinka sees this maturation of "Negritude" art as the reconciliation, and ends this powerful collection with a story of how a 12th-century Malian musical instrument, a balafon, came to be used in Paris during Senghor's 90th birthday celebration. Its very survival, modest construction and even more modest sound is a hopeful metaphor for the "near intolerable burden of memory".

RUSSELL CELYN JONES

## Family life and family strife

JAMES EVE

IN A FISHBONE CHURCH
**By Catherine Chidgey**
Picador, £14.99
ISBN 0 330 37179 7

MY FIRST SONY
**By Benny Barbash**
Review, £9.99
ISBN 0 7472 7315 4

With their first novels, Benny Barbash and Catherine Chidgey have taken the advice of more experienced authors and written about what they know. The result is two portraits of family life in their respective countries.

Barbash's novel, *My First Sony*, is narrated by Yotam Lazar, a ten-year-old boy who lives with his father, Assaf, and his mother, Alma, in Tel Aviv. Although the novel follows three generations of his family, it is the gradual disintegration of Assaf and Alma's marriage that binds it together. Assaf cannot commit himself to his wife and disappears periodically to live with his mistresses. On each occasion he returns to Alma, but the pattern repeats itself.

The family is also divided along political lines. Assaf's father, Zvi, is a Polish Jew who came to Israel at the end of the Second World War. He votes for the right-wing Likud party and takes a hawkish line on the Palestinian question. He is outraged by Assaf's comparison of the "unshaven arch-murderer" Arafat with the "freedom fighter" Begin, and he views his son's infidelities as evidence of the younger generation's lack of dutifulness.

Whenever the Lazar family gathers together, a row ensues. Yotam records each one on a Sony tape-player given to him by his father. His resulting narrative, consisting of his recordings, is a patchwork of speech. Like conversation, it is digressive: a political argument gives way to Zvi's account of how in 1945 he returned to his birthplace, only to discover that his house had been confiscated and his family murdered.

Barbash is already an established playwright in Israel. It is not surprising, therefore, that he has chosen speech as the medium through which he reveals his characters. His choice of Yotam as the book's narrator is a clever one, too. Far less judgmental than his brother Shaul, Yotam is nonetheless old enough to comment on the breakdown of his family — with the objectivity of a dramatist. Through Yotam, Barbash explores 20th-century Jewish history and reveals the danger Israel now faces of tearing itself apart from within.

The waters of family life seem to run more smoothly in Catherine Chidgey's *In A Fishbone Church*, set in New Zealand from the early 1950s to the present. Beneath the surface, however, there is a dangerous undertow as generations of women struggle to break out of small-town life.

The figure of Clifford Stilton dominates the first part of the novel. Born in 1900, Clifford never ventures off the South Island. He hunts, drinks and womanises, bullying his wife and insisting that his son, Gene, earns an honest buck as a construction worker rather than a fast one as a journalist.

Gene's wife, Etta, experiences a different upbringing. The sketch of her harsh childhood contains some of the best writing in the novel. Her sexual awakening as she bathes naked in a moonlit stream is less convincing: "She stands thigh-deep in water. Her legs are made of moon. The water flows between them." Marriage to the more worldly Gene means escape from her mother and a move to Wellington on the North Island. In the final stage of the book, Etta's children leave New Zealand altogether. Christina, their adopted daughter, becomes a doctor in Sydney, while Bridget, their natural child, goes to university in Berlin.

In its movement away from stifling provincialism and the emancipation of its female characters, Chidgey's novel is reminiscent of D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow*. But her ending is more conciliatory. Gene's death provides a resolution to some of the tensions: Christina comes to terms with her adoption and her sense of herself as an outsider in the family.

Despite the delicacy of her time-shifts, Chidgey's historical perspective is not as wide as Barbash's. She works with a smaller brush, but her compact canvas still contains some beautiful detail.

## INSHORT

### Hannibal Lecter beware

OBSESSION
**By John Douglas and Mark Olshaker**
Simon & Schuster, £16.99
ISBN 0 684 85147 4

THIS is a penny-dreadful for the Age of Anxiety: a fright ride through the careers of human predators, rapists, stalkers and serial killers. *In Cold Blood* has been overtaken by *The Silence of the Lambs* as the current cultural boilerplate, and John Douglas, an exponent of "modern behavioural profiling of serial criminals", is the guy to give us the lowdown on Ted Bundy, Ed Gein and Gary Heidnek. "Manipulation, domination, control" are the watchwords, he says, of all sexual predators and, in a final chapter, he instructs women in these techniques as a means of fighting back. No mention here of men, or the sexual predations of Jeffrey Dahmer on young males.

### Well-built

THE PENGUIN DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
Penguin, £25.00
ISBN 0 67 088017 5

THIS fifth edition, edited by John Fleming, Hugh Honour and Nikolaus Pevsner, is significant for the inclusion of landscape architecture, its practitioners, theorists and modern development into business parks, motorways, theme parks and public parks. Modernism is pursued with the addition of topics such as Critical Regionalism, Deconstructivism, Façadism and other current hot topics. Radically, too, this edition has been reset and furnished with new line drawings. It is an indispensable reference work that revises previous entries without being revisionist and deals sensibly with the shock of the new. There is thankfully no entry for "heritage".

### War story

KURDISTAN
**By Jonathan C. Randal**
Bloomsbury, £25
ISBN 0 7475 3636 8

RANDAL, the war-weary *Washington Post* foreign correspondent, noticed that the Kurds, the largest nomadic ethnic group in the world, were a constant element in all the stories he covered throughout the Middle East in the 1990s. They are generally portrayed as victims, but Randal notes their own record of betrayal and their violent internecine conflicts. He brings us news fresh from first-hand sources and his own experience of war, international diplomacy and politics. It's not a pretty story, but he tells it responsibly and without shirking the dirtiest dilemmas of an apparently intractable and explosive situation.

IAIN FINLAYSON

IN metro THIS SATURDAY

"Billy Connelly was my biggest influence": ALEX O'CONNELL meets Scottish poet and novelist Des Dillon
**ALSO:** the Beatles' break-up broken down and P. D. James tells metro how she writes

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# BOOKS

# A miracle that no one died

Grounded in fact: **Nigel Hawkes** on a book that spills the beans on safety in the space programme

**DRAGONFLY**
**Nasa and the Crisis Aboard Mir**
**By Bryan Burrough**
4th Estate, £17.99
ISBN 1 84115 087 8

Dramas in space seldom make good books, because they lack a chronicler with the gift of words and the willingness to use them. The American astronauts are tongue-tied by loyalty to colleagues and fear of a secretive bureaucracy with a long memory, the US space agency Nasa. Russian cosmonauts may tell good stories in their cups, but not for publication. Norman Mailer and Tom Wolfe apart, the history of space travel is recorded in the language of test pilots, filtered by press officers, and published by robots.

It took the disastrous muddle of the American missions to *Mir*, and an extraordinary piece of reporting, to break the code of silence. Few things Nasa has ever done were as poorly organised as its three-year involvement with the ageing Russian space station. At least two of the astronauts it sent there were psychologically unfit for the job, while the station itself was a death trap. Exhausted Russian crews worked around the clock to keep it functioning, while ground controllers at Star City near Moscow worked out ways of making the job even harder than it had to be.

So scarring was this experience to many of those involved that they have talked with remarkable frankness to Bryan Burrough, who originally intended to write an article for *Vanity Fair* and finished by writing a 400-page book. The astronauts, cosmonauts, ground crews and administrators appear to have cast off their customary caution, doubtless fearing that unless they put in their own two-pennyworth, the result would be even more damaging than it is.

In truth there are few heroes in *Dragonfly*, apart from the overworked Russian crew of Vasily Tsibliyev and Aleksandr Lazutkin and the British-born astronaut Michael Foale, who shared *Mir*'s darkest moments with them. He must have come as a welcome relief to the Russians when he took over from Jerry Linenger, a man so wrapped up in himself that sharing a railway compartment with him would be a burden, never mind a space station in imminent danger. While the Russians struggled to put things right after a fire, Linenger wrote sententious letters to his infant son.

Worse was to follow. When Foale was aboard *Mir*, the Russians decided to test a manual docking of the cargo ship *Progress*, making it more of a challenge by leaving Tsibliyev without radar data on its distance and speed. He and Lazutkin were supposed to look out of *Mir*'s windows and assess the approach speed of *Progress* with a rangefinder and a stopwatch. The only problem was that it was obscured by *Mir*'s solar panels until it was almost upon them.

This mad experiment resembles nothing so much as the test that destroyed Unit 4 at Chernobyl nuclear power station: dangerous and pointless. *Progress* duly collided with *Mir* and Tsibliyev was blamed; the station was nearly destroyed. Foale redeemed the good name of Nasa's astronauts by working alongside the Russians to save it.

After the *Challenger* disaster of 1986, Nasa swore never to allow safety to be compromised again, but Burrough's book makes clear that they did so repeatedly during the *Mir* programme. A few brave people — mostly at the end of their Nasa careers, and with no further favours expected — did speak out, but politics prevailed. The fear was that if Nasa pulled out of the programme, it would lose Russian support for the International Space Station.

The book raises serious questions about the safety of that programme. It is a powerful indictment of negligent administration and backstage point-scoring by both Americans and Russians. Many of those involved must be wondering if they did themselves any favours by talking so freely. Best of all, it restores the human dimension to manned space flight — all too human, indeed. It was a miracle nobody died.


AFP-NASA
*The crisis aboard Mir was caused when astronauts attempted to dock a cargo ship, using only a stopwatch and a rangefinder to judge its speed*

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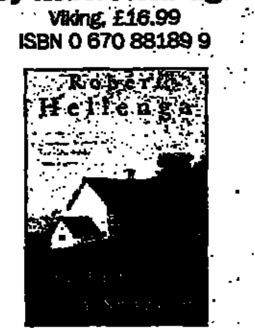
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CHANGING TIMES

# Fiction that finds many forms

**SCOTT BRADFIELD**

THE FALL OF A SPARROW
**By Robert Hellenga**
Viking, £16.99
ISBN 0 670 88189 9



The protagonist of Robert Hellenga's second novel is Classics Professor Alan "Woody" Woodhull. A lover of everyone from Aristotle to Tolkien, Woody has long believed in the power of stories to make sense of his world, but when his eldest daughter, Cookie, dies in the bombing of a Bologna train station, he begins to suspect that nothing will make sense ever again. And after his traumatised ex-wife elopes with Christ to a nunnery, Woody valiantly raises his two remaining daughters alone, pretending to be the same man he has always been. He fools almost everybody except himself.

Woody, by the way, has quite a jump on all the New Age Men of his generation. He cooks, cleans, and cries a lot. He consults numerous books on overcoming loss. And during the exotically buffeted toga parties he throws for his friends, he picks out Robert Johnson tunes on his guitar. Eventually, though, one of these parties lasts a little longer than it should, and Woody wakes the next morning in the same bed as his dissertation advisee, an ambitious girl with a slightly skewed notion of Oedipus.

Charges of sexual harassment ensue. When gender-consultants are brought in to engage Woody in sensitivity-awareness workshops, he is asked to drop such politically incorrect texts as Ovid's *Amores* from his syllabus, and to imagine what it would be like to be a short-skirted girl in a room full of older men. As his days grow both ridiculous and exhilarating, Woody starts to rouse from the systematic doldrums of himself.

Woody's eventual dismissal from teaching leaves him free to attend the trial of the political extremists in Italy who may have been responsible for the murder of his daughter, and in the course of his journey, Woody reflects on subjects as diverse as free will and determinism, Plato and Dante, cookery and Freud, making his story reminiscent of such philosophical travelogues as *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*.

While this all reads effectively at the level of individual scenes and chapters, the overall story shifts gears too often, and what starts off as an Updikish campus novel eventually loses its way in a Michael Dibdin-style crime thriller. But despite these faults, Hellenga has written one of those rare modern novels that's not afraid both to think and feel.

**ROBERT NYE**

LONG JOHN SILVER
**By Björn Larsson**
Harvill Press, £10.99
ISBN 1 86046 539 0

THE UNBURIED
**By Charles Palliser**
Phoenix House, £16.99
ISBN 1 861591 27 6

Long John Silver is one of those fictional characters who walks right off the page because he seems so real. In fact, when *Treasure Island* was originally published in serial form, Robert Louis Stevenson called it *The Sea Cook* as if to acknowledge that the one-legged pirate was its true hero.

How did Silver lose his leg? That is the first mystery cleared up by Björn Larsson's entertaining novel, translated from the Swedish by Tom Geddes. Here the old villain, now in uneasy retirement attended by slaves on Madagascar, is allowed to tell his own story. Shot from behind by a disaffected member of his crew, Silver sees to it that this shipmate's leg is also sawn off, even though there is nothing wrong with it. Then he roasts the stump, earning his nickname, Barbecue.

Picking up every available clue from Stevenson, this reinvented Silver is certainly credible, although an increase of detail leaves him less charming than the original. A rollicking yarn with sufficient psychological complexity (and shipwrecks) to make it more likely to appeal even to readers who do not know *Treasure Island*, this novel will mean most to those able to enjoy the sophistication manifest in having Silver address himself half to his fellow fictional treasure-seeker Jim Hawkins and half to a fellow maker of truthful fictions about pirates and other criminals — Daniel Defoe, encountered by Silver in a London tavern where they have both gone to watch a public hanging. In short, it's a bold act of imaginative piracy, a celebration of story-telling as an expression of the indomitability of the human spirit, a cunning pastiche of just about everything ever written concerning low life on the high seas.

Charles Palliser's *The Unburied* is also a literary treat. This is a murder story, complete with ghost, set in an English cathedral town in late Victorian times. Gas lamps hiss, floorboards creak, choirboys get beaten, and the corpse is found with its head bashed in. There's an evil smell coming from the cathedral and interminable interludes in which people meet to talk about what happened 22 years before, or read each other passages from ancient manuscripts that may (or may not) illuminate the seething dark of their present predicament.

Palliser writes well, almost too well for the good of his plot, and the result is intricately Jamesian — like M.R. James revamped by Henry James. But the novel becomes infected with the fog that pervades its narrative, getting so misty that before the end the reader has lost interest in whodun-it and why.

# Poetry happening at the zoo

***My Life Asleep*** by Jo Shapcott (OUP, £6.99; ISBN 0 19 288103 5) is, at only 44 pages, on the short side, fully a quarter of them are given over to translations and adaptations.

As she has done before, notably in her celebrated *Mad Cow* sequence, Shapcott revels in shape-shifting. *My Life Asleep* begins with a sombre reading of Ovid's Thetis myth, and includes two more *Mad Cow* poems, as well as *Pig*, *Noah's Dove*, *Elephant Woman* and other parts of an extensive bestiary.

There is about Shapcott's poetry a passionate reticence. Once in disguise, though, pressed into other skins and other perspectives, she howls and sings. Her fugitive or centrifugal "I" roots out experience, tenderness and creatureliness in an array of eccentric forms. Her hedgehog hunts out "good slugs" and courts "the hurtling mountain" of motor cars; her Brünhilde is characteristically alert to the "most vivid ways to ripen./ the most vivid ways to rot."


Tobias Hill at London Zoo. Photograph by Gill Allen

Of equal worth to the half-dozen best poems here is the sequence of *Roses*, taken from the late French poems of Rainer Maria Rilke. They are liberated translations, alchemised by her use of the first person: "Spinning in the wind/ so fast even the thrips,/ my little petal-scarring insects/ you can't touch me/ without risking a thorn,/ can only watch as my heart/ is shaken out into the world."

***Zoo*** (OUP, £6.99; ISBN 0 19 288102 7) is the second OUP book by Tobias Hill, who this year was the Writer in Residence at London Zoo. Not that it's entirely at the service of his temporary employers. Rather, the title seems to express Hill's view of London, where he lives, and pursues — like his hero, Edward Hopper — his nocturnal investigations.

Hill is an interesting descriptive writer, but his poems seem to me to have more of what Malcolm Lowry called "design governing posture" than actual design. Notebook-like, they fill up with images. "Giraffes with swimming-pool skin" is a startling thought, and I like the blue "dollybird eyes" of a wolf, but I don't really want to bother with the rest of *Doctor Crippen in Love*. In the long run, and even in the short run — Hill has a novel coming out in the spring — his prose may offer more.

***The Pamphlet*** (Anvil Press, £5; ISBN 0 85646 307 8) sounds as hip-ly and improbably definitive as the name of a nightspot, but it's only the title of the "interim selection" from Carol Ann Duffy, her first new poems since the multiply garlanded *Mean Time* of 1993. There are a dozen poems, but only one of them, *A Disbelief*, is strong enough to set beside her best. The others are so poor as to hurt her reputation. Her satire, in particular, has worn very thin, and when she uses clichés now it's not clear that it's to very much purpose: "Be handsome, beautiful, drop-dead/ gorgeous, keep away./ Read my lips./ No way. OK?" I hope she has better poems for *The Next Book*.

MICHAEL HOFMANN

هكذا من الأصل

Court of Appeal | Law Report January 21 1999 | Chancery Division

# Mill classified as agricultural building

**Farmer v Hambleton District Council and Another**

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice May

[Judgment January 14]

*Where a company* occupied a mill as an ancillary building used in connection with a number of livestock buildings, it was not necessary for the company to show that any livestock building was jointly occupied, either by the company as a body corporate and *one of its* members, or by two of its members, in order *for the mill to* be classified as an agricultural building *and be exempt from rating under* the Rating Act 1971.

*The* Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal of Buxted Chicken Ltd from the decision of the Lands Tribunal (Mr P. H. Clarke) given on July 23, 1997 allowing an appeal by William Neville Farmer, a valuation officer from the North Yorkshire Valuation Tribunal on July 28, 1995 which decided that Buxted's Provender Mill, Thirsk, should be treated as an agricultural hereditament, making it exempt from *provisions* in the 1971 *Act and* removed it from the valuation list.

*The* hereditament comprised a provender mill, offices and store. The *mill was* used *for* the manufacture of poultry feed delivered to farms between one and 110 miles from the mill.

Some of the farms were occupied by Buxted Chicken Ltd, others by companies which were members of Buxted Chicken Ltd. The Lands Tribunal decided that the mill was liable to be rated: Buxted appealed by case stated.

The questions for the court were: *whether the tribunal* erred in law in holding that *the* occupations of the *mill* and poultry farms were all single occupations and therefore did not satisfy the requirements of section 4(2)(b)(i) of the 1971 Act: and whether the tribunal erred in law in concluding that the test of *sole* use in section 1(2) of the 1971 Act could *not* be applied to the use *of* the mill.

Section 4 *of the 1971 Act* provided: "(2) ... a building is also an agricultural *building ... if (b) it is* occupied either - (i) by a body corporate *any of whose members* are, or are together with the body, the occupiers *of that* building or those buildings."

Mr Simon Berry, QC, for Buxted; Mr David Holgate, QC, for the valuation officer.

*LORD JUSTICE ROCH* said that the appeal was concerned with *agricultural buildings* defined in section 1 of the 1971 Act. It was common ground *that the mill* was occupied by a body corporate, that it was used for the manufacture of poultry feed distributed to farms and that those farms were agricultural buildings under section 2.

In order to decide whether the mill was an exempt building it was necessary to ask whether the mill and the poultry farms satisfied section 4(2)(b)(i) and whether the mill was used solely in connection with operations carried out on the farms.

*On the first question*, the Lands Tribunal had found that the Act required the joint occupation of the agricultural buildings in connection with which the mill was being used.

Mr Holgate submitted that the agricultural building had to be occupied by at least two members of *the body corporate occupying the* mill and that if the body corporate occupied any of the agricultural buildings it had to do so jointly with one or more of its members.

Occupation of some of the agricultural buildings by the body corporate alone did not bring the mill within the Act. He submitted that the word "members" in 4(2)(b)(i) meant members in the plural and did not embrace the singular.

That interpretation was consistent with the restriction applied to "persons" in 4(2)(b)(ii) by the court *in Prior v Sovereign Chicken Ltd* ([1984] 1 WLR 921).

*His Lordship did* not agree that "members" had to be read in the same way. Parliament had not simply used the word "members" but used a phrase which normally would mean "any one or more of whose members".

Section 4(2) was concerned with the occupation of the ancillary building. In paragraph (i) that was occupation by a body corporate. In paragraph (ii) it was occupation "by persons".

The occupation of the ancillary *building* had to be occupation by a syndicate, although that might be *in the form of a body corporate or a* number of persons some of whom might be natural persons and some corporate persons.

Those persons had to satisfy the requirements of section 26(4)(b)(i) or (ii) of the General Rate Act 1967.

*It was to be noted that in* 26(4)(b)(ii) it was expressly contemplated *that* one *of the individuals* might be an occupier of "some of the land", in the context of the present case, one of the livestock buildings. Parliament could not have intended the exemption in favour of syndicates to be limited in the way Mr Holgate suggested.

On the second question, Mr Holgate submitted that Buxted had not proved that the use of the mill was *solely in* connection with operations on the poultry farms.

*Section 1(2) of the 1971 Act could* only be applied to definable periods of time, *in order to see whether* in total those periods amounted to an *insubstantial* part of the overall time for which the building was used. There was no scope to apply the de minimis rule because in section 2(1) Parliament had set out the test.

Mr Holgate relied on *Hambleton District Council v Buxted Poultry Ltd* ([1992] 1 WLR 330) to argue that there could only be sole use if both the time taken to produce pellets for farms other than those in Buxted's occupation and the time taken to produce pellets for farms in occupation by Buxted or its members was known.

*His Lordship did not accept that* the court in *Hambleton v Buxted was saying that the Lands* Tribunal could not draw inferences as to the time during which the ancillary building was used in another way from its sole use from other facts in order to answer the question that arose under 1(2) of the 1971 Act.

The Lands Tribunal should *have made a common sense* inference that the use of the mill to produce pellets for *another farm did* not amount to a substantial part of *the time in which the mill* was used.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that for the purposes of section 4(2)(b)(i) of the 1971 Act it was not necessary that a livestock building which was not occupied by a body corporate should be occupied jointly by two of its members. It was sufficient that each livestock building was occupied by a single member.

*Likewise it was not required by* section 4(2)(b)(i) that a livestock *building occupied by a body corporate* should also be occupied by one or more *of its members*.

Both questions in the case stated would be answered in the affirmative.

Lord Justice May agreed

Solicitors: Stephens & Sloan, Exeter; Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

# Protecting interests of company and creditors

**In re Richbell Information Services Inc**

Before Judge Weeks, QC

[Judgment December 11]

The court should make a winding-up order against a company which had established that it had a genuine and serious cross-claim capable *of extinguishing the petitioner's debt* where it was satisfied that the interests of the company and its creditors during the litigation of the cross-claim would be better protected by the appointment of a liquidator.

Judge Weeks, QC, sitting as an additional judge in the Chancery Division so held in granting the petition of Atlantic and General Investment Trust Ltd for the winding up of Richbell Information Services *Inc, a company incorporated under* the law of Delaware.

Mr Simon Mortimore, QC and Mr Mark Arnold for the petitioner; Mr Anthony Mann, QC, for the respondent.

HIS LORDSHIP said that this was a contested creditors' winding-up petition brought by Atlantic and General Investment Trust Ltd ("AGIT"), a wholly owned subsidiary of RIT Capital Partners plc, a publicly quoted English investment trust company, and based on a debt of some US$46 million representing capital and interest due under a loan note issued to AGIT by the respondent, Richbell Information Services Inc ("RIS"), a company incorporated in the State of Delaware *as a holding company for* investments, and a wholly owned *subsidiary* of RIS Investments Ltd, a company incorporated in Anguilla.

The terms of the loan note, issued in return for a loan of US$30 million made by the petitioner through its parent company on April 22, 1996, were that RIS undertook to repay AGIT US$30 million together with interest at 25 percent a year until default and 28 percent a year thereafter, the capital to be repaid by December 31, 1997 at the latest.

The loan note was governed by English law and contained a submission to the jurisdiction of the English courts.

It was argued by counsel that there were three issues of substance which had to be decided:

The first concerned the jurisdiction of an English court to wind up a foreign company *pursuant to* section 221 of the Insolvency Act 1986. Applying the established principles governing the court's exercise of this extra-territorial jurisdiction, considered authoritatively by Mr Justice Peter Gibson in *In re a Company (No 359 of 1987)* ([1988] Ch 210), his Lordship was satisfied that England was the most appropriate place for the winding-up to take place, also that there were persons within the jurisdiction who would benefit from the making of a winding-up order.

The second issue concerned whether RIS had a genuine and serious cross-claim exceeding the amount of the petition debt.

The Court of Appeal in *In re Bayoil SA* (*The Times* October 12, 1998) said that where there was a serious and genuine cross-claim the court had a discretion to make a winding-up order *but the practice was* not to wind up the company save *in exceptional circumstances*.

It was settled law that the court would not allow a winding-up petition to be used for the purpose of deciding a dispute as to a debt which was raised bona fide on substantial grounds.

The difficulty in the present case was that the cross-claim had been brought in another jurisdiction. The respondent's colourful amended claim, brought in New York, consisted of some 177 pages, 675 paragraphs containing, so it was said, 33 causes of action alleging conspiracy, fraud, bad faith, breaches of contract and breaches of fiduciary duties by various defendants in the execution of a convoluted scheme to systematically depress the value of RIS's investment in an American company called HG Holdings.

For the purpose of the present proceedings the court had to form a view as to the viability of the New York proceedings.

The court formed a tentative view that there was a genuine and serious cross-claim, principally because outside investors, acting on a much more informed basis than the court could on the evidence before it, appeared to be prepared to fund what must doubtless be very expensive litigation in New York, and whom his Lordship inferred had carefully considered whether it was worthwhile throwing good money after bad.

The third issue was whether there were special circumstances *taking the matter outside the* prima facie rule in *Bayoil* so that the court should exercise its jurisdiction against the petitioner.

The court might be justified in not making an order where it would be unfair to those creditors *who did not actively support* the petition and to shareholders to stop the company trading when there was a genuine dispute as to what, if anything, was owed to the petitioning creditor at the end of the day.

Another reason for not making and order would be if the winding-up procedure were being used to stifle the counterclaim by leaving the liquidator without funds to pursue the counterclaim against the petitioning creditor.

Neither of those circumstances was present in this case. RIS was not a trading company, and its remaining assets appeared to be intercompany debts. There was no activity it proposed to continue while its counterclaim was litigated in New York.

Provision had already been made for the counterclaim to continue at no expense to the company, which appeared to have accepted the inevitability of its liquidation by trading in its claim for the amounts provable in liquidation.

Those were not the only special circumstances. RIS had one bankrupt director and another with no interest in the matter other than his position as a director in that and other companies within the Richbell Group and therefore no interest in recovering the intercompany debts or pursuing the US$[illegible] million which went into RIS's solicitors' account.

The appointment of a liquidator would safeguard the interests of RIS and its creditors in regard to the New York action. It would protect one of the assets of RIS from manipulation by the persons in charge of the litigation without having any outward effect on the conduct of the litigation itself, which was being conducted otherwise than at RIS's expense.

So far as its creditors were concerned, the position with RIS was so unsatisfactory that there were special circumstances in the present case for exercising the discretion in favour of the petitioner and making the winding-up order sought.

Solicitors: Macfarlanes; Hammond Suddards.

# Small simple effective step was not obvious

**Haberman and Another v Jackel International Ltd**

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment January 15]

In determining whether a particular industrial development was "obvious" so as to disentitle the developer to patent it, its commercial success might throw light on the approach and thought processes which pervaded *that industry* as a whole.

*Mr Justice Laddie so held* in the Chancery Division, when (i) granting the first *plaintiff*, Mrs Mandy Nicola Haberman, leave to amend her UK Patent GB No2,226,045, for which she had applied on April 7, 1992, so as to make it plain that her invention of a non-drip "trainer cup" for use by children, operated *by lip pressure alone*; and (ii) finding it, as amended, valid.

The second *plaintiff*, V & A Marketing Ltd, marketed such cups under the trade mark "The Anyway-Up Cup". The defendant, Jackel International Ltd, challenged the validity of the patent.

Mr Michael Fysh, QC and Mr *Adrian Speck for the plaintiffs; Mr* Mark Platts-Mills, QC, and Miss Charlotte May for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that in the summer of 1990 the idea *of making a non-drip* trainer cup came to Mrs Haberman after watching another parent's unsuccessful efforts to prevent the contents of a conventional one from spilling. Thereafter, she evolved *and patented* a *cup which when* inverted would withstand vigorous *shaking and would not leak* when laid prone, spout-downwards.

At the hearing of Jackel's attacks on the validity of that patent on the grounds of anticipation and obviousness, the arguments as to validity had concentrated on claim 1, which provided:

"A drinking vessel suitable for *use as a trainer cup ... comprising*: an open-mouthed generally cup-shaped container ... [with a] *lid* having a mouthpiece associated therewith; the vessel being provided with a ... self-closing slit valve adapted to prevent flow of liquid from the interior of the container through the mouthpiece unless a *pre-determined* level of suction is applied to the mouthpiece by the *sole application of suction thereto*; the configuration of the valve ... being *such that the slit valve is* adapted to open upon no more than a *predetermined* difference of pressure, greater within the vessel than *outside*, being *present* across the said valve".

Mr Platts-Mills had contended that any container of any shape would fall within the claim and, *most importantly*, that anything that would fit in the mouth, for example, *something* indistinguishable from a traditional teat, constituted *a mouthpiece*.

Mr Fysh disagreed, contending *that it was the mouthpiece, not the* container, that denominated the product: and pointing out that the draft European Standard drew a distinction between children's drinking products (a) fitted with feeding teats, and (b) those with drinking accessories, for example, spouts, spoons or straws.

The *difference* between the two was clear and had run through all *the evidence; so his Lordship* accepted Mr Fysh's approach. Given that the patent was concerned only with (b) above, the defendant attacked its validity on both the grounds of anticipation and obviousness.

His Lordship rejected the defendant's contentions that the patent had been anticipated by two USA patents and six allegations of prior *use and/or publication*.

Obviousness was the real issue, to which *Windsurfing International Inc v Tabur Marine (Great Britain) Ltd* ([1985] *RPC* 59) had set out *a structured approach*:

The inventive concept was to use a simple slit valve to prevent leakage of fluid from the outlet of a training cup.

At the priority date, it had been relevant common general knowledge that teats from feeding bottles had been made drip-resistant by incorporating slit valves; and that training cups were *prone* to leak, creating a problem.

*The Windsurfing question was* whether, viewed without any *knowledge* of her invention, the difference between what Mrs Haberman did and the prior art would have been obvious to the skilled man: to which Jackel answered: "Blindingly so; and for some time".

In this case, as in others, expert witnesses had put the court in a position to understand the thought *processes which could lead towards*, or away from, the patented *solution*.

The court then had to decide which approach more closely reflected what would have occurred to the hypothetical uninventive worker in the art, at the priority date.

Each expert addressed the prior art and the patented development *from his own unique standpoint: if* he thought that development obvious, *he might be right: alternatively*, he might just have a greater insight than the hypothetical uninventive worker.

Likewise, an expert who thought it not obvious might be right: or have a more restricted insight.

However, some insight into the thinking of workers in the art at the priority date could be provided by evidence of commercial success, which could throw light on the thought processes pervading the industry as a whole.

His Lordship enumerated nine *factors which appeared to him of* value in helping to determine whether a development was obvious, and continued that there was no doubt about the longevity or significance of the leakage problem which the patent sought to solve: the variety of solutions for it impressed not only in number but because they seemed complicated and suffered from significant disadvantages when compared with Mrs Haberman's solution, which *was cheap, simple, effective and a* remarkable commercial success.

*The step she had taken* was very small and simple: but it appeared to be one which was under the very *noses* of the many people in that trade, over at least the preceding ten years.

In view of that, and the obvious benefits which would flow from it, His Lordship had come to the conclusion that that step was not obvious.

*In the language of Lord Justice* Hoffmann in *STEP v Emson* ([1993] *RPC* 513, 519) *her patent disclosed* something sufficiently inventive to deserve the grant of a monopoly. Accordingly, the plaintiffs' action succeeded.

Solicitors: Paisner & Co; Freshfields.

# Existing use certificate can include dormant use

**Panton and Farmer v Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions and Another**

Before Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC

[Judgment December 16]

For the purposes of an application for a *certificate of lawfulness of existing* use or development under section *191(1)(a)* of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as substituted by section 10 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, an existing use of buildings or land could include a use which was dormant.

Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC, sitting as a deputy judge *of the Queen's Bench Division*, so held when allowing applications *by Mr Bernard Panton* and Mr Allan Farmer under section 288 of the *1990 Act to quash the decision of* the inspector acting on behalf of *Secretary of State for the Environment*, Transport and the Regions made on March 26, 1998 *granting on appeal by Mr Panton a certificate* of lawful use or development under section *191(1)(a)* of the 1990 Act, as substituted, for primarily residential purposes with ancillary artistic construction, sculpting and storage purposes in relation to *Dandridges Mill*, in the area of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

Mr Nicholas Burton for Mr Farmer; Mr Ian Albutt for the secretary of state and the district council; Mr Panton in person.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr Farmer bought the mill in 1960 and sold it in June 1987 to Mr Panton who *granted him the right* to remain in occupation for life.

Mr Panton's proposal to store wine in the mill as part of his wine business was challenged by the district council and on April 11, 1997 he accordingly applied to them for a certificate section 191(1)(a), as substituted, for existing uses as a dwelling house (class C3), *for industrial process* (class B1), storage (class B8), display of goods for sale (class A1) and the sale of food and drink (class A3) as classified under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order (SI 1987 No 764) on the ground that each use had exist*ed for the prescribed time periods*.

The authority failed to make a decision and Mr Panton appealed to the secretary of state under section 195 of the 1990 Act, whose inspector found that Mr Farmer's use of the mill for his business of *sculpting and constructing models* had commenced in the 1960s but declined to being barely more than a hobby between 1987 and 1997 and could not therefore be a class B1 use, that a catering business ceased to operate at the mill between *those years and therefore no* class A3 use existed, that the only primary use was as a dwelling house (class C3) and that no other uses were primary ones existing continuously for the required period of *10 years prior* to the date of the application for the certificate of existing *lawful use*.

His Lordship said that the inspector, on finding that a use existed for dwelling with ancillary purposes for the whole of the mill, had a duty under section 191 of the 1990 Act to grant an existing lawful use certificate *for the whole of the mill* premises and the certificate granted for only part of the mill would be quashed on that ground alone, regardless of whether the appli*cants had suffered any prejudice*.

Additionally, the inspector *failed to consider that the uses for* which the certificate was requested, although not physically active at the time of the application, might have been dormant uses *which had arisen by way of material* change of use but were now inactive.

The dormant use would still exist in planning terms under section 191 of the 1990 Act if the right to that use had not been lost by operation of law, that is, by abandon*ment, formation of a new planning* unit or by a material change of use.

With regard to the provisions of section 191(2), an enforcement notice was no less properly served in relation to a dormant use than to one being carried on in an active physical sense.

The inspector wrongly ap*proached the matter* by considering the use of the premises from the *date of application* looking backwards rather than starting at the inception date of the use.

Her focus was overwhelmingly on the state of affairs at the date of application, which would only have been relevant to a finding of *abandonment of the previous uses*.

However, the inspector made no *such finding and failed to consider* whether those uses had been lost by material change of use of the whole premises to residential use. Accordingly the appeal would be redetermined by the secretary of state.

*Solicitors*: Morgan Cole, Oxford; Treasury Solicitor.

# Children occupy house of child benefit recipient

**Regina v Swale Borough Council, Ex parte Marchant**

Before Mr Justice Kay

[Judgment December 17]

Where children spent equal amounts of time with their mother, *who received child benefit*, and at their father's home, who had ap*plied for housing benefit, the chil*dren would be considered occupiers of the home of the parent in receipt of child benefit who was therefore responsible for them. The size criteria of the father's home would be determined on the basis of a sole occupant and the amount of housing benefit, payable under section 130(3) restricted accordingly.

Mr Justice Kay so held in the *Queen's Bench Division, when dis*missing an application for judicial *review of the refusal on June 5*, 1997 by Swale Borough Council, of an appeal by Simon Stuart Marchant against the rejection on February 5, 1997 of his request for an internal review of the decision, on November 27, 1996, by a rent officer that Mr Marchant's home exceeded the size criteria for a house solely occupied.

Mr Jon Holbrook for Mr March*ant; Mr Richard Clayton for Swale* Borough Council.

MR JUSTICE KAY said that the council's argument was in line with guidance given by a Department of Social Security circular Adjudication Operation Circular AIS/97, "Referrals to rent officers who to include as occupiers in refer*rals and pre-tenancy* determination applications", while that of the applicant accorded with the view taken in the National Welfare Benefits Handbook produced by the Child Poverty Action Group.

His Lordship could find no justification for limiting the application of regulation 5(1) of the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1971 (Part II) "Provisions af*fecting entitlement to housing bene*fit", simply to questions of whether any housing benefit was payable to an applicant or not.

There was no limiting words contained in the regulation nor did his Lordship see any need by reference to the rest of the regulation or the scheme of the legislation to imply such words.

The heading to regulation 5 of the 1987 Regulations read: "Circumstances in which a person is or is not entitled to housing benefit". It seemed clear to his Lordship that *that provision was intended to an*swer the question of which home a *person occupied as a dwelling for* the purposes of housing benefit.

*If one* applied the test to the three children, they were members of a family. By reason section 137(1) of the Social Security Contribution and Benefits Act 1992, each was a member of the family consisting of the parent who was responsible for them and his brothers.

Regulation 14 in Part IV of the Regulations, "Membership of a family", made it clear that the mother was responsible for the three children as she received the child benefit in respect of them and the applicant was not. Hence Regulation 5 provided that each child was to be treated as occupying the dwelling normally occupied as his home by himself and his family, that is, the mother's home.

He was not to be treated as occupying as his home any other dwelling house and that had to exclude the applicant's house.

Accordingly the children were not occupiers of their father's home *and in the application of the size cri*teria, under paragraph 2 of Sched*ule 1 to the Rent Officers (Addition*al Functions) Order (SI 1995 No 1642) they could not be taken into account.

Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights could not be taken as imposing upon the state a requirement to provide two homes both large enough to accommodate the children of a couple if that couple had split up. That would go far beyond respect for family life.

*His Lordship did not accept that* that conclusion led to absurd re*sults in the instances suggested by* Mr Holbrook. Foster children were provided for by a *fostering al*lowance, in fixing the appropriate *levels* for such allowances, every consideration of the cost of such fostering could be taken into account including the fact that such a child would not count as occupiers for the size criteria and that housing benefit for the family could be less than otherwise would be considered necessary. There was specific provision for temporary absences from home, which would cater for the child temporarily in care.

Solicitors: Russell Campbell; Mr William Duncan Milne, Sittingbourne.

European Law Report | Luxembourg

# Drugs sentence is against EC law

**Criminal proceedings against Calfa**

Case C-348/96

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges P. J. G. Kapteyn, P. Jann, C. Gulmann, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, H. Ragnemalm, L. Sevón, M. Wathelet, R. Schintgen and K. M. Ioannou

Advocate General A. La Pergola

(Opinion February 17, 1998)

[*Judgment* January 19]

National legislation which, on the conviction of a *national* of *another* member state for drug offences, provided for the offender's expulsion *for life*, with no possibility of account being taken of his personal conduct or the *danger* he represented to the public interest, was contrary to Community law.

*The* Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference *under article* 177 of the EC Treaty for a preliminary ruling by the Aríos Pagos (Supreme Court of Cassation), Greece.

By Greek law, where a foreign *national* was convicted of certain drug offences, the court, in addition to any *other* sentence, was obliged to order his expulsion for life, unless there were *compelling* reasons, in particular family reasons, which justified his continued *residence in* the country.

Donatella Calfa, an Italian national, was *convicted* of the possession and use of prohibited drugs while *staying as a tourist* in Crete, and sentenced to three months imprisonment and *expulsion for life* from Greek territory.

On her appeal from the expulsion order, the question was raised whether such legislation was precluded by various Community provisions, including Council Directive 64/221/EEC of February 25, *1964 on the co-ordination* of special measures concerning the movement and residence of *foreign* nationals which are justified on grounds of public policy, public security or public health (OJ English Special Edition 1963-1964, p117).

Article 3 of that directive provides: "(1) Measures taken on grounds *of public policy or of* public security shall be based exclusively on the personal conduct of the individual concerned.

"(2) Previous criminal convic*tions shall not in themselves* constitute grounds for the taking of such measures."

In *its judgment* the Court of Justice held:

The principle of *freedom to* provide services established in article 59 of the Treaty, which was one of its fundamental principles, included the freedom for recipients of *services* to go to another member state in order to receive a service there *without* being obstructed by restrictions, and tourists were to be regarded as *recipients of services*.

Although in principle criminal legislation was a matter for the *member states*, the court had held that Community law set a limit on *the states' powers*, and *such* legislation could not restrict the fundamental freedoms *guaranteed* by Community law.

The penalty of expulsion *for life* from the territory, in the present case, was clearly an obstacle to the freedom in article 59, since it was the very negation of it.

The same would be true for other fundamental freedoms referred to by the national court: the freedom of movement for workers in article 48, and the freedom of establishment in article 52.

*However, it was necessary to* consider whether such a penalty could be justified by the public policy exception provided for in, inter alia, article 56 of the Treaty.

Article 56, as interpreted by the Court of Justice, permitted member *states* to adopt, with respect to nationals of other member states, and in *particular on the ground of* public policy, measures which they could not apply to their own nationals, in as much as they had no authority to expel the latter from the territory or deny them access thereto.

*The concept of public policy* could be relied on in the event of a genuine and sufficiently *serious* threat to the requirements of public policy affecting one of the fundamental interests of society.

A member state could consider that the use of drugs constituted a danger for society such as to justify special *measures against* foreign nationals who contravened its drugs laws, in order *to maintain* public order.

However, the public policy exception, like all derogations from a fundamental principle of the Treaty, had to be interpreted restrictively.

*In that regard*, Directive 64/221 set certain limits on the right of member *states to expel foreign na*tionals on the grounds of public policy, and *it followed* from article 3 that an expulsion order could be made against a Community national such as Ms Calfa only if, besides her having committed an offence under drugs laws, her personal conduct created a genuine and *sufficiently serious threat* affecting one of the fundamental interests of society.

By the legislation in the present case, expulsion for life automatically followed a criminal conviction, without any account being taken of the personal conduct of the offender or of the danger which that person *represented for the require*ments of public policy.

It followed that the conditions for the application of the public policy exception provided for in Directive 64/221 were not fulfilled and that the public policy exception *could not be successfully relied on* to justify a restriction on the freedom to provide services such as that imposed by that legislation.

On those grounds the Court of Justice ruled:

Articles 48, 52 and 59 of the EC Treaty and article 3 of Directive 64/221 precluded legislation which, with certain exceptions, in *particular where there were family reasons*, required a member state's courts to order expulsion for life from its territory of nationals of other member states found guilty on that territory of the offences of obtaining and being in possession of drugs for their own personal use.

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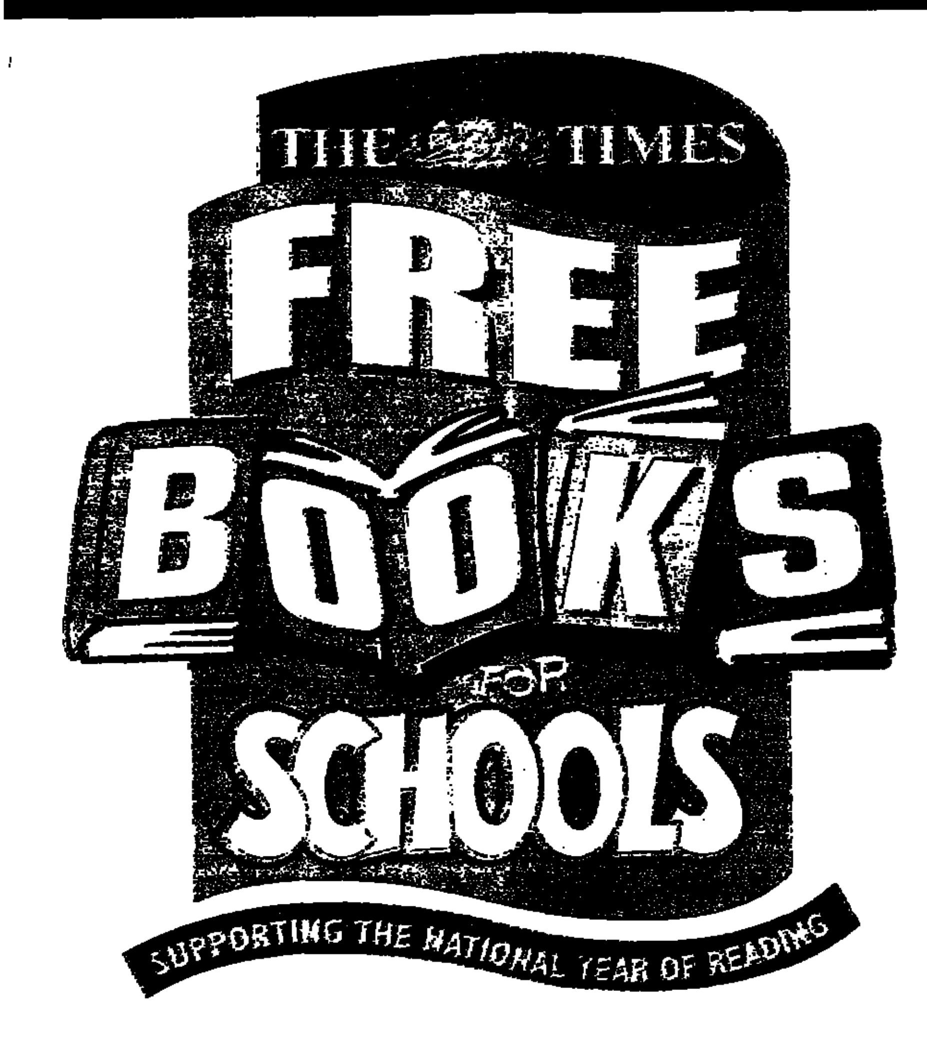
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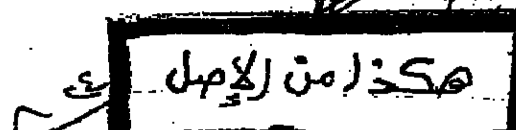
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**SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN**

CHANGING TIMES





Splashing out: the runners in the Woodhurst Handicap Hurdle have to contend with water on the track at Huntingdon yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

# Egerton prospers as rates decline

By Richard Evans
*Racing Correspondent*

THE sporting "anorak", whose judgment is based on a never-ending diet of statistics about runs per over, aces per set or putts per round, would recoil in horror at meeting Charlie Egerton, the engaging National Hunt trainer based at Chaddleworth, in Berkshire.

*If ever there was living proof that* the number-crunchers can get the wrong end of the stick, it is provided by the experience of "Edgy" over the past 18 months. In the 1997-98 season, he ended up with a winning strike-rate of 33 per cent — suggesting he had enjoyed a cracking run — compared to 28 per cent this term.

All of which proves the truth about lies, damned lies and strike-rates because last season was a nightmare *for Egerton. His yard was ravaged* by a virus and Shadow Leader was killed in the Champion Hurdle, while this campaign is proving a joy.

"Strike-rates matter when your *horses are ill or immature.* I beat Venetia Williams's (strike-rate) last year — with the virus," Egerton, a man famous for his one-liners since his days at Eton, said. Summoned to see his bank manager and informed *that his overdraft was bigger than the* bank manager's salary, he is reputed to have responded: "In which case you should get another job."

The real story behind the statistics is that Egerton not only displayed enormous patience to rescue 15 win*ners (and 13 seconds) from just 45 run*ners last season, he also demonstrated a skill for knowing when the horses were ready to perform to their best. This winter, the horses have been healthy so the task has been easier and more rewarding, with 12 winners so far and the promise of greater glory as the Festival meetings beckon.

Dangerus Precedent, whom Egerton bought as a yearling, has won four hurdle races for owner Chris *Brasher* and is *now pencilled in* for the Triumph Hurdle. Fanfaron, who runs at Ludlow today in the colours of the Elite Racing Club, has looked an above-average recruit to novice chasing and boasts Cheltenham entries, while Double Tempo, bought as an unbroken *four-year-old, is* another beginning to reward Egerton's patience.

*Decoupage almost certainly has a* big race in him if the rain gives way to offer the prospect of good ground. Star Mystery, his dark horse for the year, is scheduled to run shortly.

*The loss of Shadow Leader last* March — a year after Mysilv suffered a fatal injury on the home gallops — was a dreadful blow, but time may show that he could have an equal in *Salamah. Formerly with Roger Charl*ton, the Sadler's Wells gelding won *as he liked* at Newbury before a slightly below-par effort behind Hidebound at Ascot. "At home, at this stage of his career, he is as nice a horse as I have ever had."

*Having been a member of the* Equestrian Society at Eton and a regular visitor to Newbury and assorted racecourses during term time, there was never much doubt as to Egerton's career path. A couple of years spent with Nick Gaselee were fol*lowed by a stint as coffee boy at the* British Bloodstock Agency, spells with Colin Hayes in Australia and Alec Stewart, before joining Rhydian Morgan-Jones, now a director of the British Horseracing Board, as a partner in a bloodstock company.

"*When I first started training* everyone thought it was a joke." He soon removed the smile from their faces by sending out a high percentage of winners from the 20 empty boxes on his *late father's farm.* He has 26 jumpers, six Flat horses, and two ambitions: to *build* up the numbers and make it a dual purpose yard. "In the long term, I would like to train more Flat horses."

In the meantime, he will do his utmost to boost the winners to runners ratio — to keep the anoraks happy.

□ *Winter Garden, formerly trained* by Luca Cumani, emerged as a candidate for Cheltenham when winning by 12 lengths at Down Royal yesterday. "He will go for either the Supreme Novices' Hurdle or the SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle." *Noel Meade, the winning trainer, said.*



Egerton: patience rewarded

**RICHARD EVANS**

Nap: COUNTRY KRIS (3.50 Taunton)

Country Kris has the invaluable *assistance of Seamus Durack* in this race for conditional jockeys and looks fairly treated judged on his latest run when second at Ludlow.

NB: Lady Of Gortmerron (3.10 Ludlow)

# Hurdles inspection at Ascot

NICK CHEYNE, the clerk of the course at Ascot, will hold an inspection at 8.00am today to determine the fate of the hurdle races on tomorrow's card.

The fixture, which originally featured the grade two PML Lightning Novices' Chase, now stages the Victor Chandler Chase, rescheduled from the abandoned meeting *last Saturday.*

Cheyne reports the chase course to be free from trouble, but parts of the hurdles track are unraceable. Should it fail the inspection, the course will stage a five-race chase card.

No inspection has yet been called for tomorrow's other turf meeting, at Kelso, but clerk of the course Johnnie Fenwicke-Clennell warned: "*We had a shower this morn*ing and we wouldn't want any more significant rain."

Although Haydock Park, due to stage the Peter Marsh Chase and Intercity Champion Hurdle Trial on Saturday, *lost its last card to the* weather, clerk of the course Philip *Arkwright* is upbeat *about* prospects for the weekend.

"It has taken the rain pretty well and we are all right," he said. "When our last meeting *was abandoned we did some* pretty intensive work and it has worked. The going is soft, heavy in places."

Frank Pengelly, head *groundsman* at Kempton, forecast soft ground but no problems for Saturday's meeting, while at Catterick, also due to race on Saturday, a spokesman said: "The weather forecast is wet and windy and at the moment the going is soft, heavy in places. The ground *is not that bad* — we could have raced today."

There are no problems reported for today's turf meetings at Ludlow and Taunton.

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(Div I: £1,737: 1m 2f) (11 runners)

1 0-30 SLIP JIG 10 (B,C,S) K Burke 6-9-11 D Sweeney 1
2 01-6 YAJTAHED 12 (S) G L Moore 4-9-10 F Norton 11
3 22-3 LILANITA 14 (S) B Palling 4-9-4 G Faulkner (3) 4
4 1-32 SAMMY'S SHUFFLE 12 (B,CD,G) R Flower 4-9-2 Dane O'Neill 5
5 50-0 HEVERGOLF PRINCESS 14 (C) T Naughton 4-9-1 T Sprake 8
6 530- CAERNARFON BAY 86 G L Moore 4-9-0 Candy Morris 7
7 2-22 MARADI 7 (V) B Curley 5-8-9 J P Spencer (3) 3
8 064- MENDOZA 33 (C) P Mitchell 5-8-8 W Ryan 2
9 660- FOUR OF SPADES 57 (B,C,F) R Hodges 8-8-7 Amanda Sanders 6
10 0-20 CLONOE 7 (F,S) R Ingram 5-8-5 A Clark 10
11 60-0 LIFT BOY 14 (C,F,G) P Burgoyne 10-7-13 J Quinn 9

3-1 Sammy's Shuffle, 5-1 Lilanita, Maradi, 7-1 Slip Jig, 8-1 Yajtahed, 10-1 Caernarfon Bay, Mendoza, Clonoe, 14-1 others.

## 1.30 WILSON HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,728: 1m 2f) (10)

1 32-4 HAWKSBILL HENRY 9 (BF,CD) Mrs A Perrett 5-9-11 A Clark 1
2 04-1 STAR TURN 14 (CD) R Flower 5-9-7 Dane O'Neill 9
3 000- AFICIONADO 28J (G) R Hodges 5-9-3 S Drowne 3
4 00-6 SANTONE 12 R Hannon 4-9-2 P Dobbs (7) 6
5 402- WHATEVER'S RIGHT 118 (C,F,G) M Usher 10-9-0 W Hutchinson (7) 7
6 3-00 CASTLE ASHBY JACK 5 (C) P Howling 5-9-0 J Quinn 5
7 0-22 HARVEY WHITE 14 (BF,D,F,G,S) J Pearce 7-8-9 A Polli (3) 2
8 55-0 SIR WALTER 12 (F) A T Murphy 5-8-8 Dean McKeown 4
9 000- SUPER-GEM 24J J Wainwright 4-8-6 G Bardwell 10
10 030- IMPERATOR 31 G L Moore 4-8-5 J Fanning 8

3-1 Star Turn, 7-2 Hawksbill Henry, Harvey White, 7-1 Whatever's Right, 8-1 Santone, 10-1 Aficionado, 12-1 Castle Ashby Jack, 20-1 others.

## 2.00 GLADSTONE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,583: 1m) (11)

1 050- ZIMIRI 22 (CD) J Toller 5-8-13 S Whitworth 3
2 00-0 MISMEWMEW 7 (E) L A Dace 4-8-8 T G McLaughlin 4
3 00-0 MISTER RAIDER 19 (B,C,F) E Wheeler 7-8-7 S Carson (7) 8
4 55-0 SILENT PRIDE 19 G L Moore 4-8-6 Candy Morris 5
5 04-5 MR ROUGH 7 (B,D,F,S) D Morris 8-8-5 N Day 7
6 0-02 PLEIN GAZ 7 (C,S) R O'Sullivan 8-8-3 J Quinn 2
7 40-0 HAWAII STORM 15 (CD,F,S) D ffrench Davis 11-8-1 Dale Gibson 1
8 00-0 LAST CHANCE 9 (F) J Wainwright 5-8-1 G Bardwell 11
9 000- SPENCER'S REVENGE 222 (V,CD,F) P Butler 10-8-1 P Doe (5) 6
10 005- FAIRLY SURE 141 (D,F) N Berry 6-8-0 F Norton 10
11 30-0 SQUARE MILE MISS 16 (CD) N Berry 6-8-0 N Carlisle 9

7-2 Hawaii Storm, 9-2 Plein Gaz, 5-1 Square Mile Miss, 13-2 Zimiri, 8-1 Mister Raider, Mr Rough, Last Chance, 10-1 others.

## 2.30 CHARITY RACEDAYS AT LINGFIELD PARK HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,596: 5f) (9)

1 020- AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING 155 (D,S) Miss J Craze 9-7 S Webster 4
2 215- LADY CAROLINE 23 (BF,C) M Johnston 9-2 J Fanning 8
3 136- AVONDALE GIRL 23 (D,G) C Dwyer 9-1 J Gotobed (7) 2
4 32-6 THORNABY GIRL 15 (D,G) T Barron 9-1 Kimberley Hart (5) 9
5 22-0 DOLLY DAY DREAM 14 (F) K Ivory 8-11 Martin Dwyer 5
6 1-3 GRASSLANDIK 12 (BF,D) A Newcombe 8-10 J Quinn 3
7 001- KAYO GEE 31 (B,CD) A McNae 8-6 T Sprake 1
8 00-2 OH I SAY 12 (D,F,S) Miss G Kelleway 8-5 P Doe (5) 6
9 304- CREDENZA 164 R Spicer 7-10 A Polli (3) 7

11-4 Lady Caroline, 7-2 Grasslandik, 6-1 Oh I Say, 13-2 Thornaby Girl, Kayo Gee, 10-1 Dolly Day Dream, 12-1 Aa-Youknownothing, Avondale Girl, 14-1 Credenza.

## 3.00 DISRAELI MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,649: 7f) (7)

1 00-3 ADMIRALS PLACE 14 R Armstrong 9-0 A Clark 6
2 040- BILLICHANG 114 P Howling 9-0 J Quinn 4
3 60- CUTAWAY 65 W Jarvis 8-9 D McGaffin (7) 1
4 0-0 DISTANT BELLE 15 N Littmoden 8-9 T G McLaughlin 3
5 5-0 ELEANOR RIGBY 12 M Johnston 8-9 J Fanning 5
6 0-3 GRAND CORONET 9 T Mills 8-9 L Carter 2
7 236- LEGEND FALLS 103 J Noseda 8-9 W Ryan 7

2-1 Legend Falls, 7-2 Admirals Place, Grand Coronet, 13-2 Cutaway, 7-1 others.

## 3.30 LINGFIELD PARK GOLF CLUB HANDICAP
(£3,614: 7f) (8)

1 4-20 TOPTON 5 (B,BF,CD,G) P Howling 5-10-0 J Quinn 4
2 05-0 ROBO MAGIC 19 (C,F) L Montague Hall 7-9-11 W Ryan 1
3 -002 LOVE ACADEMY 5 (D,F) M Johnston 4-9-10 Dean McKeown 8
4 60-0 TWIN CREEKS 5 (CD,F) V Soane 8-9-10 R Cochrane 6
5 18-0 BUTRINTO 19 (CD,F) J Pearce 5-9-7 A Polli (3) 2
6 000- SHARP PEARL 77 (F) D Cosgrove 6-9-0 Dane O'Neill 7
7 112- MUTABASSIR 30 (BF,CD,F,S) G L Moore 5-8-7 F Norton 5
8 00-3 SUITE FACTORS 7 (D,F,S) K Burke 5-7-10 Dale Gibson 3

11-4 Mutabassir, 3-1 Love Academy, 5-1 Topton, 13-2 Butrinto, Twin Creeks, 8-1 others.

## 4.00 THATCHER CLASSIFIED STAKES
(£2,068: 1m 4f) (11)

1 02-1 BAPSFORD 12 (C,D) M Waring 5-9-2 R Price 8
2 01-6 DANCING-ALONE 9 D Morris 7-9-2 P M Quinn (7) 5
3 010- HAYDN JAMES 41 (F) P Harris 5-9-2 A Culhane 2
4 640- ARTIC COURIER 129 (D,F,G) D Cosgrove 8-9-0 W Ryan 6
5 4-35 CHABROL 8 (F) P Gilligan 6-9-0 J Quinn 11
6 2-04 MUHANDIS 7 (B,C,F) G L Moore 6-9-0 Candy Morris 3
7 60-6 STAR MANAGER 12 (G,S) R Spicer 9-9-0 S Carson (7) 1
8 -321 SUCH BOLDNESS 3 (D) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-0 P Fredericks (7) 10
9 /3-4 DOUBLE FLIGHT 14 (F) Miss B Sanders 5-8-11 A Clark 7
10 04-5 MERRY PRINCE 7 (B) P Hedger 4-8-10 Dane O'Neill 4
11 050- VIDAME 65 R Flower 4-8-10 S Drowne 9

3-1 Such Boldness, 4-1 Artic Courier, 9-2 Double Flight, 7-1 Chabrol, 8-1 others.

### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Noseda, 6 winners from 12 runners, 50.0%; T Barron, 11 from 31, 35.5%; Mrs A Perrett, 5 from 24, 20.8%; V Soane, 8 from 42, 19.0%; R Armstrong, 14 from 74, 18.9%; M Johnston, 45 from 264, 17.0%.

JOCKEYS: Kimberley Hart, 8 winners from 15 rides, 53.3%; P Dobbs, 8 from 34, 23.5%; D McKeown, 27 from 149, 18.1%; W Ryan, 42 from 256, 16.4%; R Cochrane, 53 from 331, 16.0%; P Fredericks, 6 from 38, 15.8%.

## RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

### Huntingdon

Bessie Browne (5th), 10 Molsum (4th), 16 ..., 25 Cleikeswan (6th), 33 Bellroi. 8 ran. 6l, 5l, 5l, 1½l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £1.70, £1.30, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £6.20. CSF: £6.48. Tricast: £42.30.

... (3m ch) 1, MALAWI (G Tormey, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Hawaiian Youth (D Fortt, 11-4 jt-fav); 3, Early Drinker (J A McCarthy, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Lord Khalice, 4 Selatan. 6 ran. Nk, ... J Jefferson at Malton. Tote: £4.30, £2.50, ... DF: £6.10. CSF: £10.05.

... (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, YANKIE LORD (G ...

### Wolverhampton

2.10 (1m 4f) 1, ABULJOOD (C Lowther, 6-4 fav); 2, Monaco Gold (S Carson, 10-1); 3, Al-ashib (Martin Dwyer, 15-8). ALSO RAN: 9-1 Portite Sophie (6th), 11 Time Can Tell (4th), 16 Frame of Mind, 20 Weeheby, 33 Nut d'Or, 50 Mendeluci (5th). 9 ran. 4l, nk, 4l, 2½l, 2l. P Haslam at Middleham. Tote: £2.20, £1.40, £2.30, £1.40. DF: £16.30. CSF: £16.34.

2.40 (1m 4f) 1, CHINA CASTLE (C Lowther, 11-8 fav); 2, Reyik (N Carlisle, 10-1); 3, King Prism (J Quinn, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Swan Hunter, 8 Papua, 10 Be Warned (4th), Failed To Hit, 12 Punishment (6th), 16 Noukari (5th). ...

## LUDLOW

THUNDERER

1.10 FATHER KRISMAS (nap). 1.40 Tylo Steamer. 2.10 Bold Statement. 2.40 Biya. 3.10 Lady Of Gortmerron. 3.40 Legal Right. 4.10 Some Operator.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

## 1.10 MARSHBROOK MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,054: 2m) (17 runners)

1 B BRILLIANT STAR 21 S Brookshaw 7-11-8 S Wynne –
2 36 CRICKETING 70 T George 7-11-8 T Jenks –
3 JENNY'S CHARMER 901F H Mobley 6-11-8 D McPhail (5) –
4 3 MISTRATO 103 P Webber 5-11-8 D Matthews –
5 0/ PERILOUS PLIGHT 51F A Streeter 8-11-8 T Eley –
6 22 ROCABEE 26 (BF) D Nicholson 5-11-8 A Maguire –
7 0/0- SCHOLAR GREEN 397 G Yardley 7-11-8 V Slattery –
8 52P/ SLIDE ON 702 (D,G) P Evans 9-11-8 Mr G Lake (7) –
9 P TE AKAU DAN 33 J Bradley 5-11-8 H Oliver (5) –
10 54 THE LEADER 47 P R Webber 6-11-8 B Fenton 44
11 4056 WEET AND SEE 30 T Wall 5-11-8 Gary Lyons 85
12 GREENACRES GODDESS 523F T Wall 5-11-3 J Mogford (7) –
13 SOME GREY P Bowen 7-11-3 W Marston –
14 3 FATHER KRISMAS 12 P Nicholls 4-10-10 J Tizzard [109]
15 FLAME TOWER 17F Miss K Marks 4-10-10 Guy Lewis (3) –
16 JACK REEF 96F D McCain 4-10-10 A C Coyle (5) –
17 U RISKNOWT GETNOWT 33 R J Price 4-10-10 T J Murphy –

2-1 Father Krismas, 11-4 Rocabee, 3-1 The Leader, 6-1 Brilliant Star, 14-1 Mistrato, 20-1 Flame Tower, 25-1 Cricketing, Weet And See, 33-1 others.

## 1.40 NEENTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,711: 2m) (20)

1 52-3 DRAKESTONE 103 R Brown 8-11-10 S Kelly (5) 25
2 P-1R TREMENDISTO 22 (D,G,S) T Wall 9-11-7 Mr R Forristal (5) 77
3 5633 HIGH LOW 43 (D,F,S) I Jones 11-11-0 J Mogford (7) 86
4 /446 TYLO STEAMER 76 D Williams 7-10-11 R McGrath 79
5 64-0 CROMABOO CROWN 22 (CD) P Bevan 8-10-10 W Worthington [90]
6 5-00 SOLDIER COVE 7 D Burchell 9-10-9 D J Burchell 44
7 B0P4 FONTAINE FABLES 20 (B,D,S) E L James 9-10-8 Miss S Samworth (7) –
8 F10U IRISH SEA 13 (G) B Llewellyn 6-10-6 Miss E J Jones 81
9 503- BONNY 317 D Wintle 6-10-0 W Marston 75
10 -006 COBLE 19 D McCain 5-10-0 A C Coyle (5) 71
11 6-UP TWO BILLS 21 (B) A Streeter 5-10-0 T J Murphy –
12 4623 CONNEL'S CROFT 13 (V) P Evans 7-10-0 R Thornton 86
13 4403 GALLOPING GUNS 22 (CD,F,G) B Llewellyn 7-10-0 D McPhail (5) 73
14 005- DUNSTON HEATH 264 P Bevan 6-10-0 Mr S Stronge (7) 73
15 /6P- MAPENGO 262 Mrs C Hicks 8-10-0 M Keighley (7) –

## 2.10 ANNUAL MEMBERS HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,583: 3m) (8)

## 2.40 LONGMYND NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,762: 2m) (8)

1 40C1 ROCKFORCE 17 (D,S) P Nicholls 7-12-0 J Tizzard 93
2 6123 MR BEAN 22 (B,D,F,S) B Llewellyn 9-11-4 D McPhail (5) [112]
3 0U23 BIYA 14 (G) D McCain 7-10-6 T J Murphy 105
4 PP0F ROYAL SWEEP 24 Dr P Pritchard 10-10-0 Dr P Pritchard –
5 PF46 ROYAL CEILIDH 3 D Williams 6-10-0 R McGrath –
6 405P TEE TEE TOO 13 C Jackson 7-10-0 D Burrows (5) 85
7 25-5 SWAN STREET 17 E L James 8-10-0 J R Kavanagh 88
8 5-36 BALLYBAY 63 R Alner 6-10-0 P Holley 68

5-4 Rockforce, 7-2 Mr Bean, 4-1 Biya, 6-1 Ballybay, 10-1 Swan Street, 20-1 others.

## 3.10 WELSHPOOL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,822: 3m 2f 110yd) (14)

1 P-P1 TILTY 35 (V,CD,F,G,S) A Streeter 9-11-10 Gary Lyons 108
2 1-14 LADY OF GORTMERRON 67 (D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-1 T Jenks 110
3 /06/ CARMEL'S JOY 692 (S) T George 10-10-12 Mr N Fehily (7) –
4 5P-F FOODBROKER STAR 25 (S) T Needham 9-10-11 Mrs C Ford –
5 3-01 RIVERBANK ROSE 14 (F,G,S) W Clay 8-10-11 G Tormey 110
6 111/ SCOUNDREL 722 (F) A Juckes 8-10-10 V Slattery –
7 -151 WHITEBONNET 20 (B,G,S) C Jackson 9-10-2 Miss S Jackson 108
8 5454 TAP ON TOOTSIE 14 (G) T Wall 7-10-0 L Harvey 100
9 64?2 BLAZING STORM 26 (G) C Egerton 7-10-0 Sophie Mitchell 93
10 45-0 WHAT JIM WANTS 26 (S) P Wegmann 6-10-0 D Matthews [130]
11 5132 LITTLE SERENA 26 (C,F,G) Mrs P Ford 9-10-0 D McPhail (5) 104
12 0F-3 FANCY NANCY 51 (D,S) Miss C Johnsey 8-10-0 D Gallagher 55
13 06F4 WESTCOAST 13 (B) M Tate 8-10-0 W Marston 84
14 0-PF ONE MORE DIME 26 (C,F) J R Hughes 9-10-0 B Fenton –

4-1 Lady Of Gortmerron, 9-2 Riverbank Rose, 5-1 Tilty, 8-1 Scoundrel, 10-1 others.

## 3.40 TELFORD NOVICES CHASE
(£2,853: 2m 4f) (10)

1 1-12 FANFARON 24 (BF,D,G,S) C Egerton 6-11-11 J A McCarthy [112]
2 0P-F COOLEST BY PHAR 26 Mrs P Ford 7-11-5 D McPhail (5) –
3 0-P5 ESKLEYBROOK 13 M Jackson 6-11-5 J Mogford (7) 17
4 50P5 FASTINI GOLD 13 (F) R J Price 7-11-5 S Kelly (5) 71
5 23-2 HIGH IN THE CLOUDS 46 (F) H Daly 7-11-5 S Wynne 92
6 /43- HOPE THATCH 558 A Hobbs 11-11-5 W Marston –
7 P-35 JELALI 65 (G) D Murray Smith 6-11-5 D Gallagher –
8 1-4P LEGAL RIGHT 57 (G,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-5 R McGrath 83
9 0-45 MAZAMET 41 O O'Neill 6-11-5 V Slattery –
10 PP-6 TUDOR FALCON 21 (B,S) P Bradley 6-11-5 Gary Lyons –

8-11 Fanfaron, 11-4 High In The Clouds, 6-1 Legal Right, 14-1 Jelali, 20-1 others.

## 4.10 BORDER INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
(£1,599: 2m) (18)

1 1 COUNT CAMPIONI 59 (CD,G) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-11 Mr T Gibney (7) 51
2 1 SILVER HILL 36 (S) D Nicholson 5-11-11 R Massey 41

## TAUNTON

THUNDERER

1.20 Perfect Venue
1.50 Doctor Bravious
2.20 Rectory Garden
2.50 Santabless
3.20 May Sunset
3.50 Country Kris
4.20 Atlantic Mist

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.20 PERFECT VENUE.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

## 1.20 YARCOMBE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,421: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

101 53-21 PERFECT VENUE 42 (CD,S) (Martin Pipe) N Henderson 6-11-11 M A Fitzgerald [?]
102 65-15 TAIN TON 36 (S) (Mrs S Tainton) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-11 C Llewellyn 46
103 P ACCESS FESTIVALS 56 (Miss E Williams) R Frost 9-11-5 T O Connor (7) –
104 23-42P BOATER 12 (Lady C Lucas) P T Murphy 5-11-5 S Durack 35
105 RICCARTON 94F (T Warner) J Bradley 6-11-5 N Williamson –
106 EVAPORATE 605F (R Floyd) R Floyd 7-11-0 B Powell –
107 0-6 HENBURY PRINCESS 23 (F Crumpley) R Mullman 6-11-0 D Salter 18
108 TAMASHA 2022F (Mrs J Smith) A G Smith 10-11-0 G Supple (3) –
109 UFFMOOR ROSE (R Brotherton) R Brotherton 6-11-0 Michael Brennan –
110 4 DASHING CHIEF 20 (Mrs J McCormack) R Frost 4-10-7 J Frost –
111 SANTA COURT 225F (D & C ...) R Dickin 4-10-7 X Aizpuru (3) –
112 62206 SHERGANZAR 12 (B) (A Schiavoni) O Sherwood 4-10-7 J Osborne 67
113 STREET FIGHTER 61F (T Eaves) P Hobbs 4-10-7 C Maude –

BETTING: 4-5 Perfect Venue, 4-1 Sherganzar, 6-1 Tain Ton, 10-1 Street Fighter, 12-1 Riccarton, 16-1 Boater, 20-1 Evaporate, Dashing Chief, 25-1 others.

1998: POLAR PROSPECT 5-11-11 G Tormey (4-5 fav) P Hobbs 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Perfect Venue beat Mersey Beat neck in 14-runner novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Tain Ton 16l 5th of 13 to Polo Champ in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft), previously beat Don Fayruz ... in 9-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft). Boater pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m ..., soft), previously 8l 2nd of 11 to Lady Peta in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Henbury Princess 66l 6th of 13 to ... in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft), previously 7th ... of 13 to Lonicera in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm). Dashing Chief beaten a distance 4th of ... to Mersey Lad in 4yo novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Sherganzar 43l 6th of 11 to ... in 4yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft).

PERFECT VENUE showed a smart turn of foot to win here last time and will be hard to beat

## 1.50 PICKERIDGE SELLING HURDLE
(£1,509: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

201 00 BLAZING CASTLE 42 (Mrs D Wetherall) N Hawke 5-11-5 B Powell 15
202 402440 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 7 (B) (C Stewart) J R Poulton 6-11-5 J Magee [62]
203 35-060 EIRAWE 23 (M Lowe) P Farrell 6-11-5 N Williamson –
204 PP- ON THE CARDS 389 (R Buckler) R Buckler 6-11-5 D O'Sullivan (7) –
205 /3633- THE SWAN 364 (BF) (T Sanders) R Frost 6-11-0 J Frost 52
206 053 LAUREN'S LAD 112 (B) (D Lewis) B Llewellyn 4-10-7 X Aizpuru (3) 40

BETTING: 4-6 The Swan, 5-2 Doctor Bravious, 7-1 Blazing Castle, 8-1 Lauren's Lad, 10-1 Eirawe, 33-1 On The Cards.

1998: CIRCLE OF MAGIC 4-10-9 A P McCoy (5-1) M Pipe 15 ran

FORM FOCUS: Blazing Castle 50l 10th of 14 to Perfect Venue in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Doctor Bravious 55l 9th of 10 to ... in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). Eirawe beaten a distance 8th of 12 to Cento in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). On The Cards pulled up in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). The Swan 4l 2nd of 15 to Circle Of Magic in selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, soft). Lauren's Lad beaten a distance 5th of 5 to Miss Orchestra in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good).

THE SWAN can come out best in a moderate contest

## 2.20 CORAL CHASE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE)
(£7,198: 3m 3f) (11 runners)

301 /1-3UF FLAKED OATS 12 (F,G,S) (Paul Sheffield) P Nicholls 10-11-10 M A Fitzgerald 123
302 13-224 RECTORY GARDEN 33 (G,S) (Earl Cadogan) H Daly 10-11-5 C Maude 129
303 23-135 FREDDIE MUCK 52 (F,G,S) (Mrs C T-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-1 C Llewellyn 124
304 15/P-6 MERLINS DREAM 43 (C,F,G,S) (W Wan) O Sherwood 10-10-13 J Osborne 76
305 -43234 OBAN 19 (B,G,S) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Knight 9-10-9 J Culloty 125
306 2-3F11 ZAGGY LANE 33 (S) (E Wey) P Rodford 7-10-6 S Burrough 113
307 414-35 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 48 (S) (M Lake) R Frost 10-10-6 J Frost 132
308 1-2U13 WOODLANDS BEAU 50 (F,G,S) (D Stiers) R Alner 7-10-6 R Widger (5) 122
309 PF52-1 CAREYSVILLE 6 (S) (G Johnson) Miss V Williams 8-10-6 (5ex) N Williamson 129
310 2-22F3 JAZZMAN 49 (G) (C Shankland) G McCourt 7-10-4 E Husband 107
311 443312 SOLO GENT 26 (F,G,S) (Eastbury Racing Club) A P Jones 10-10-4 B Clifford [135]

BETTING: 9-4 Careysville, 9-2 Flaked Oats, 11-2 Zaggy Lane, 7-1 Rectory Garden, Freddie Muck, 10-1 Oban, 16-1 Pennymoor Prince, Solo Gent, 20-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS: Flaked Oats fell in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, soft). Freddie Muck 12l 5th of 9 to Feels Like Gold in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, heavy). Merlins Dream 47l 6th of 8 to Auto Pilot in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, good). Oban 24l 4th of 8 to Rightsaidfred in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, soft). Zaggy Lane beat Hawaiian Youth 5l in 13-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m, heavy) with Rectory Garden (9lb better off) 11l 4th. Pennymoor Prince 16l 5th of 7 to Clever Remark in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good). Woodlands Beau beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Whippers Delight in amateur handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Careysville beat Scavo beaten a distance in 3-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft). Jazzman 18l 3rd of 9 to Stepasideboy in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good to soft). Solo Gent 3l 2nd of 8 to Young Kenny in handicap chase at Market Rasen (4m 1f, heavy), previously beat Rectory Garden (4lb better off) 1½l in 7-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m 6f 110yd, good).

ZAGGY LANE won in good style last time and shapes as though he will cope with this longer trip

## 2.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,931: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

401 30-115 SANTABLESS 19 (G,S) (D Arnold & D Goodman) M Pitman 6-11-10 N Williamson [110]
402 1-1103 ALTA 19 (G) (Alchemists) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 C Llewellyn 92
403 00/0- BUCKS REEF 438 (M Archer) A J Wilson 7-11-0 Michael Brennan –
404 2 GRAVITY FLOW 70 (H Perry) R Alner 5-11-0 M A Fitzgerald –
405 LEABURN (Graham Sell) P Hobbs 6-11-0 C Maude –
406 PORLOCK HILL (A Hobbs) P Hobbs 5-11-0 Mr D O'Meara (7) –
407 0-F5PF SANDORAN 20 (M Hill) M Hill 6-11-0 D Salter 55
408 5F-660 INDIAN LEGEND 48 (F & E Ridge) Mrs S Williams 6-10-9 J Culloty 24

BETTING: 11-8 Alta, 6-4 Santabless, 6-1 Gravity Flow, 14-1 Leaburn, 20-1 Porlock Hill, Indian Legend, 25-1 Sandoran, 50-1 Bucks Reef.

1998: NEVER IN DEBT 6-11-0 T J Murphy (14-1) A Hobbs 13 ran

FORM FOCUS: Santabless beaten a distance last of 5 to King's Road in novice hurdle grade 1 at Newbury (2m 5f, soft), previously beat Quetal 11l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy). Alta 14l 3rd of 10 to Shagreen in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Bucks Reef 53l 8th of 11 to Knock Leader in national hunt flat race at Warwick (2m, good). Gravity Flow 1½l 2nd of 11 to Forgotten Hero in national hunt flat race at Taunton (2m 1f, good). Sandoran fell in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Indian Legend 44l 9th of 12 to Rakii Hey in amateur novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good).

SANTABLESS, out of his depth when well beaten last time, returns to a more suitable grade

## 3.20 BICKENHALL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,870: 2m 3f) (7 runners)

501 0-23BF GO GO HENRY 20 (B) (P De Wilde) R Alner 7-11-10 M A Fitzgerald [?]
502 252-3F MR PIPE MAN 17 (S) (Pied Pipers) R Curtis 10-11-8 J Leech 64
503 3-0524 PLAYLORD 22 (J Mandeville) G McCourt 6-11-7 E Husband –
504 42-003 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 6 (D,S) (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 8-10-5 N Williamson 80
505 /6265P MAY SUNSET 23 (G) (Millennium Group I) N Hawke 9-10-4 B Powell –
506 /U33P/ GALLIC GIRL 770 (Mrs J Bennett) R Hodges 9-10-3 C Maude –
507 /3/0-P SGT CHILDCRAFT 20 (Miss J Jeffery) B Millman 9-10-2 D Salter –

BETTING: 2-1 Go Go Henry, 3-1 Mr Pipe Man, 4-1 Playlord, 5-1 Hightown Cavalier, 7-1 May Sunset, 16-1 Gallic Girl, 50-1 Sgt Childcraft.

1998: PRIMITIVE STREAK 7-10-0 T Dascombe (14-1) R Hodges 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Go Go Henry in touch when fell at the 8th in novice handicap chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Mr Pipe Man fell in maiden chase at Folkestone (2m, soft), previously 9l 2nd of 5 to Silent Cracker in novice chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, firm). Playlord beaten a distance 4th of 11 to Goodtime George in maiden hurdle at Stratford (3m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously 6l 2nd of 15 to Barneys Bell in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Hightown Cavalier 13l 3rd of 7 to Harding in novice handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, soft). Gallic Girl pulled up in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good), previously beaten a distance last of 3 to Dawn Chance in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m, good to soft).

HIGHTOWN CAVALIER was not disgraced at Folkestone last week and will appreciate this longer trip

## 3.50 LEVY BOARD JANUARY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,327: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

601 16P512 WEATHER WISE 13 (BF,F,G,S) (D Chown) W G M Turner 7-11-10 J Power (3) 99
602 325-06 BEEFY NOVA 12 (Mrs S Tainton) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-8 J Goldstein 26
603 -03361 CENTO 23 (B,CD,S) (B ...) Mrs S Williams 6-11-6 Michael Brennan [105]
604 40-210 LIFE'S WORK 62 (BF,S) (Four Double-U's) P Hobbs 7-11-5 R Widger 71
605 40-362 COUNTRY KRIS 13 (B Ryall) B Ryall 7-11-1 S Durack 98
606 546-14 STUDIO THIRTY 26 (BF,D,G,S) (D & C Holder) R Dickin 7-10-11 X Aizpuru 61
607 4110-P SAAFI 26 (B,CD,G,S) (H Davies) R Baker 8-10-10 G Shenkin 102
608 15-483 GRATE BRITISH 7 (S) (J Allen) J Allen 7-10-9 E Husband 95
609 0/0413 GRANBY BELL 23 (D,S) (H Weston) P Hayward 8-10-8 E Cummins 101
610 40P-60 ROSIE-B 35 (C,G) (Mrs J Waring) S Knight 9-10-0 M Griffiths 95

Long handicap: Rosie-B 9-9

BETTING: 7-2 Cento, 4-1 Beefy Nova, 11-2 Country Kris, 6-1 Life's Work, 13-2 Granby Bell, 8-1 Studio Thirty, 10-1 Weather Wise, 12-1 others.

1998: TEXAS SCRAMBLE 9-10-0 R Studholme (5-1) B Baugh 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Weather Wise ½l 2nd of 11 to Simply in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, heavy). Beefy Nova 38l 6th of 12 to Supinaic in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, soft). Cento beat Upham Surprise 6l in 13-runner novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with Granby Bell (4lb better off) 7¼l 3rd. Life's Work 33l 8th of 14 to Dancing Poser in novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, good to soft), previously beat German 22l in 10-runner novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 6f, soft). Country Kris 6l 2nd of 17 to Mithak in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Studio Thirty 23l 4th of 12 to Shadiann in handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good) with Saafi (4lb better off) pulled up. Grate British 19l 3rd of 10 to Frabjoosh in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). Rosie-B 36l 7th of 17 to Spud Level in amateur sell. handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 7f, soft).

COUNTRY KRIS, a fair second at Ludlow, looks well weighted back in handicap company

## 4.20 CURLAND HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,710: 2m 1f) (7 runners)

1 166-04 VENT D'AOUT 23 (D,S) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 5-12-0 C Maude 96
2 11/F66 AERION 41 (G,S) (Chamberlain Addiscott Pines) O Sherwood 8-12-0 J Osborne 26

### Blinkered first time

**Australian Open:** Two fortuitous line-calls assist leading Briton's passage into third round

# Henman struggles to assert his authority

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

AS THE scoreline suggests, Tim Henman's victory over Sandon Stolle in the second round of the Australian Open yesterday was a fraught encounter. He was taken to five sets and the win, which took him more than three hours to achieve, came at the expense of a wild-card entrant ranked No 240 in the world.

Despite two favourable line calls that gifted him the second set, Henman trailed by two sets to one against a man whose passage through the first round matched his best achievement in eight previous visits.

Henman has muddled through such matches before, of course — most notably when downing Paul Haarhuis at Wimbledon 19 months ago. He has also lost them, as he did, most pitifully, to Jerome Golmard in the first round here last year.

As he served the opening game of the fourth set, Henman's predicament was uncomfortable. His first service had been inaccurate, his second trampled underfoot by a rampant opponent. While his groundstrokes were adequate, his touch at the net was strangely lacking.

That service game quickly advanced his predicament from uncomfortable to dire. Irritated by the incessant whirl of a camera high up in the stadium, he promptly served a double fault to trail 40-30. That sort of distraction would previously have shredded his concentration. Indeed, it was after Golmard had had some blisters pierced in the deciding set last year that Henman, unsettled by the delay, came out and served a shocking game to lose the match.

This time he composed himself, fended off a further two break points in taking the game, and quickly brought a sense of order to a match that was slipping away. From that moment he was never going to lose — and Stolle knew it. "They say that the better player usually wins over five sets," the Australian said. "That is exactly what happened today."

Although accurate, it was a magnaminous comment from Stolle, who was robbed of the second set by two rogue line-calls when serving at deuce and 5-6. A very late call deprived him of an ace that Henman later conceded was good and Stolle promptly double-faulted. At set point, a forehand from Henman bounced long, but was called in. Stolle looked devastated.

We can now reflect on those slices of good fortune because of Henman's victory. The detail could otherwise have been lost in a morass of double faults, forehands missed and chances spurned en route to a mind-numbing defeat. Happily, that was averted.

Reflecting on his victory by 4-6, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, Henman said: "At the start, I was perhaps trying too hard and getting a little bit uptight with some of my shots. I made life difficult for myself in the first three sets, but I relaxed in the fourth and fifth sets to turn it round." In his quest for a quickfire start, he spent too much adrenalin and was unable to establish a rhythm.

Henman's reward is a third-round joust with Marc Rosset, an occasional doubles partner. The pair have met twice previously, with Henman triumphing most recently in the final of the 1997 Tashkent tournament.

While Henman was preparing himself for his next match, Alex Corretja, the highest seed to start the tournament, was on his way back to Spain after a lacklustre display that ended in defeat at the hands of Christian Ruud, of Norway. Corretja, a renowned clay-court player, has become adept at beating hard-court specialists on their favoured surface. He struggles, however, when confronted by one of his own kind.

He and Ruud, world-ranked No 86, engaged in countless looping rallies. The Spaniard, seeded No 2, was not inclined to approach the net and paid the price. Ruud displaying greater consistency in winning 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. The last two points provided a succinct summary of an insipid contest. The penultimate point saw Corretja net a passing shot on the 54th stroke of the rally and the match ended when he mishit a forehand on the thirtieth stroke of yet another extended rally. His tame exit means that only two survivors, Pat Rafter and Andre Agassi, are seeded higher than Henman, who remains on course for a projected quarter-final clash with one of Pat Rafter, Mark Philippoussis or Thomas Enqvist. Philippoussis, seeded No 14, came through a gruelling duel with Michael Chang 7-6, 2-6, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, while Enqvist maintained his impressive form by dismissing Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, 7-6, 7-6, 6-0.

Marat Safin, the dangerous Russian, is quietly compiling a grand-slam record of repute. Safin, 19, reached the fourth round at both Roland Garros and Flushing Meadows in his debut year. He advanced to the third round here with a grinding defeat of Gustavo Kuerten, of Brazil, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, and next plays Karol Kucera, seeded No 7.

The women's event lost a potential dark horse when Patty Schnyder, seeded No 8, was beaten by Amelie Mauresmo, of France. Mauresmo, another strong hitter, prevailed 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 and next faces Nicole Pratt, who yesterday overcame Sam Smith, the British No 1, 6-4, 6-4.

Smith said that she should have beaten Pratt, a diminutive and obdurate baseliner who proved better at handling the gusty conditions. "I missed so many open courts with poor volleys," Smith said. "I had both sets under control and never thought I would lose the match — even at 5-4 down in the second set."

☐ Boris Becker has been given a wild card into the Guardian Direct Cup in London, which starts on February 22.



Henman was at full stretch to make this return against Stolle, a lowly-ranked Australian, who kept him on court for over three hours. Photograph: Tom Szlukovenyi



GARY M. PRIOR / ALLSPORT

Smith, the British No 1, attacks with a backhand during her defeat by Pratt, in which she missed many chances

## RESULTS FROM MELBOURNE

### MEN

**SINGLES: Second round:** K Kucera (Slovakia) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 7-5, 6-1, 6-4. M Rosset (Switz) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6-7, 7-6, 6-1, 6-3. J Tarango (US) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-1, 3-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0; A Ilie (Aus) bt J Golmard (Fr) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt J Gimelstob (US) 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. W Ferreira (SA) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1. T Henman (GB) bt S Stolle (Aus) 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. T Enqvist (Swe) bt B Black (Zim) 7-6, 7-6, 6-0. B Ulihrach (Cz) bt A Cherkasov (Russ) 7-6, 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4. R Krajicek (Holl) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-3, 6-2, 7-5; M Safin (Russ) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; C Ruud (Nor) bt A Corretja (Sp) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. N Lapentti (Ec) bt M Norman (Swe) 7-6, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt M Chang (US) 7-6, 2-6, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt M Puerta (Arg) 3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-1. P Rafter (Aus) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4

**DOUBLES: First round:** D Adams and J L de Jager (SA) bt B Talbot (SA) and S Dosedel (Cz) 6-3, 6-4. S Draper and L Hewitt (Aus) bt M Hood and S Prieto (Arg) 7-5, 2-6, 7-2; J Novak and D Rikl (Cz) bt B Coupe and G Grant (US) 6-1, 4-6, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) and D Vacek (Cz) bt S Groen (Holl) and J Coetzee (SA) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; E Ferreira (SA) and R Leach (SA) bt T Anzari (Cz) and A Martin (Sp) 6-3, 6-4, T Kempers and J Siemerink (Holl) bt G Koves and A Savolt (Hun) 6-7, 6-2, 11-9; O Delaitre and F Santoro (Fr) bt N Broad and A Richardson (GB) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, G Doyle and B Ellwood (Aus) bt D Johnson and F Montana (US) 7-5, 6-3, M Mirnyi (Bela) and A Olhovsky (Russ) bt J Eagle (Aus) and J Grabb (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; C Haggard (SA) and P Nyborg (Swe) bt N Djordjevic (Yug) and L Pimek (Bel) 6-3, 6-3; A Kitinov (Mkd) and M Kohlmann (Ger) bt M Barnard and P Rosner (SA) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

### WOMEN

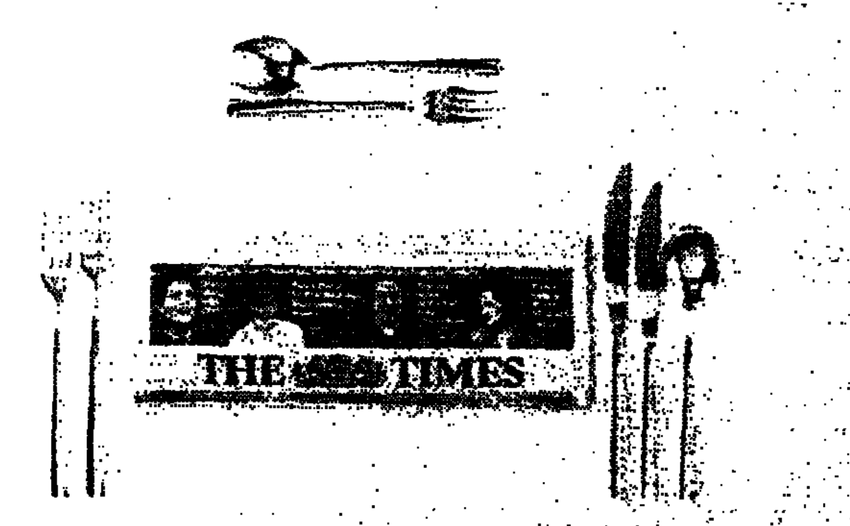
**SINGLES: Second round:** S Plischke (Austria) bt A Huber (Ger) 6-7, 6-3, 7-5; D van Roost (Bel) bt S Noorlander (Holl) 7-6, 6-0; M Drake (Can) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, E Loit (Fr) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 1-6, 6-2, 6-2; M A Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt J Capriati (US) 7-6, 6-2; L Davenport (US) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-2, 6-1; J Novotna (Cz) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; C Martínez (Sp) bt A Rippner (US) 6-0, 6-4, N Pratt (Aus) bt S Smith (GB) 6-4, 6-4, C Rubin (US) bt E Wagner (Ger) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt L Ghirardi (Fr) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; A Mauresmo (Fr) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 6-7, 6-4, 6-3. N Zvereva (Bela) bt M Tu (US) 6-3, 7-5; J Nejedly (Can) bt C Cristea (Rom) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; R Dragomir (Rom) bt J Chi (US) 6-1, 6-2, V Williams (US) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-1.

**DOUBLES: First round:** L Courtois (Bel) and N de Villiers (SA) bt Cho Yoon-Jeong and Park Sung-Hee (S Kor) 7-6, 6-3; A Graheme (Aus) and B Stewart (Aus) bt R Bobkova (Cz) and D Jones (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; S Appelmans (Bel) and M Oremans (Holl) bt M Saeki and Y Yoshida (Japan) 6-4, 6-4. M J Fernandez and C Moranu (US) bt A Ellwood and A Molik (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; C Singer (Ger) and H Vildova (Cz) bt M Lucic (Cro) and M Pierce (Fr) 6-2, 6-2, L Neiland (Lat) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt E Dominikovic and C Watson (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; M Hingis (Switz) and A Kournikova (Russ) bt E Melicharova (Cz) and J Pullin (GB), 6-3, 6-0; R Hiraki (Japan) and L McShea (Aus) bt E Bes (Sp) and S Krivencheva (Bul) 7-6, 7-5; E Likhovtseva (Russ) and A Sugiyama (Japan) bt L Lee (US) and P Stoyanova (Bul) 6-3, 6-3; I Gorrochategui (Arg) and S Graf (Ger) bt K Adams and D Graham (US) 6-2, 4-6, 8-6, M de Swardt (SA) and E Tatarkova (Ukr) bt C Papadika (Gr) and G Pizzichini (It) 7-5, 6-4; B Schett (Austria) and P Schnyder (Switz) bt C Dhenin and E Loit (Fr) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

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**BOWLS:** GOURLAY PUTS PAID TO LIVELY CHALLENGER FROM HONG KONG

# Kennedy's colourful run ends

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

FASHION note from the world indoor championship at Potters Leisure Resort in Norfolk: Noel Kennedy, the bandana man from Hong Kong, bought his scarlet headgear, not in Stanley Market, but in Norwich.

Kennedy, who put up a good show before giving best to the No 6 seed, David Gourlay, will add the red bandana to his collection of 15 at home in Wan Chai.

The 32-year-old, who struts his stuff at the Kowloon Bowling Green Club, where he has played for almost 20 years, said: "I think it adds a bit of colour to the game. When I was in Australia for the world outdoor championships in 1996, I also smeared my face with zinc cream in a matching colour."

An emergency committee of the Hong Kong Bowling Association was once called to discuss whether the Wales-born Kennedy should be allowed to wear a coloured bandana in the Hong Kong Classic Pairs tournament. "They agreed on condition that it should be regulation white," he said with a chuckle. "Now coloured shirts are commonplace, and I wear them all the time."

Gourlay: escaped set lies

Kennedy believes that something needs to be done to make the game more attractive. "Otherwise, it will just fade away and die," he said. "The game is particularly staid in the UK, where I understand that ties are compulsory at club and county level."

Kennedy held set lies in the first and second sets, but Gourlay, the 1996 champion, wriggled free to win the first, 7-5, and ditched the jack to win the second, 7-4, when his opponent was holding three.

"I feel disappointed, because I could have been two sets up," Kennedy said. "David hit a one-bowl target to save the first set and hit the jack to save the second. That took the wind out of my sails, but I thought I was unlucky to be beaten in straight sets."

Gourlay said: "If I'd lost the first set, Noel would have perked up, and the game might have been very different.

"I realise I need to step up a gear, but it's good to win when you are playing below 100 per cent and now that I'm in the quarter-finals, I think I've got something to spare."

A 25-year-old Irishman, who has a familiar name, but is new to televised bowls, defeated an Australian who ties himself into knots before dispatching his woods. Jonathan Ross beat Ian Taylor, 7-0, 5-7, 7-0, 7-2.

**SNOOKER**

# Judge gives narrow verdict to Ireland

BY PHIL YATES

MICHAEL JUDGE rekindled Ireland's hopes of winning the Nations Cup by beating Joe Swail in a dramatic deciding frame to give his side a 6-5 victory over Northern Ireland at the Telewest Arena, Newcastle, yesterday.

The outcome of a 4½-hour tussle was determined when Judge potted the black after Swale had twice escaped from a snooker. Even then, Judge had to endure a split second of anxiety as the white almost ran in off.

"I'm thrilled to bits but I must admit I have never felt quite that nervous before," Judge said. "The pressure was unbelievable but I just about held up."

The result meant that, after the completion of five matches, all the five competing nations retain the opportunity to reach the final on Sunday, although England, defeated in both of their outings so far, are hanging on by a shoestrong.

Jason Prince protected his 100 per cent record in two singles frames and when partnering Swail in another. Dennis Taylor also helped Northern Ireland's cause by claiming the fourth frame. He and Terry Murphy required a snooker when Ken Doherty unluckily went in off the pink. Taylor potted it from distance, then the black for a 3-1 Northern Ireland advantage only for Ireland to fight back to lead 4-3.

When Prince defeated Stephen O'Connor, who arrived back in Newcastle at five o'clock yesterday morning following a marathon match in the qualifying competition of the world championship at Blackpool and was understandably jaded, Northern Ireland again assumed the role of favourites at 5-4.

O'Brien enabled Ireland to draw level at 5-5 before Judge held his composure under pressure to keep the quartet of Dubliners in contention for the title.

**BOXING**

# Couch prepares for latest challenge

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JANE COUCH, the only professional woman boxer in Britain, will make her second appearance in this country, when she defends her Women's International Boxing Federation (IBF) welterweight title against Marischa Sjauw, of Holland, at the Thornaby Pavilion, Middlesbrough, on February 20

Tex Woodward, Couch's trainer, said yesterday that the challenger will provide a far greater test than did her last opponent, Simone Lukic, an 18-year-old German, whom Couch dispatched in two rounds at Streatham last November. Sjauw, who was born in Surinam, had 70 contests as a kick-boxer before taking up traditional boxing. She has won six out of her seven contests.

Couch, whose bout will be shown live by Front Row, the cable television company, said she was not upset by the lack of support from traditionalists. "It's a new sport and you're going to get controversy. It doesn't bother me," she said. "If they are talking about me, at least they are leaving somebody else alone.

"All the publicity of my last fight made television come to me and back me like they do the girls in America. Those promoters who have been against me are going to want me on their shows soon, because I sell tickets."

Couch, who has been sparring with men in preparation for this contest, said she wants to box every two months.

The bill is headed by a World Boxing Federation middleweight title bout between Cornelius Carr, of Middlesbrough, and Simon Brown, of Jamaica. Carr, who is trained by Pepe Correa, the former trainer of Lennox Lewis, came close to beating Steve Collins and believes he has the armoury to surprise Brown, a former IBF and World Boxing Council champion.

هكذا من الأصل

**GOLF: EUROPEAN PLAYERS SHORT OF PRACTICE GOING INTO THE SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN**



Faldo, eager to get in as much practice as possible, lines up a putt during the pro-am at Stellenbosch yesterday. Photograph: Paul Severn/Allsport

# Els on course to turn up the heat

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN STELLENBOSCH

ON AND on rolls the circus. Having concluded the opening event of the 1999 season in Johannesburg last Sunday, the European Tour has moved 1,000 miles south-west, to the heart of the Cape. Here, in the second-oldest town in South Africa, the temperature is soaring and no one dares to go out in the midday sunshine without proper head covering and having been doused in protective sun cream.

Nick Faldo was the biggest name from Europe in Johannesburg, but, here, he has been joined by Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Sam Torrance, who are all starting their 1999 campaigns. Langer has a particular purpose. Last year was the first since 1978 that he did not win a tournament on his home tour. "That makes me more determined to win one this year," he said.

The South African Open is two years older than the US equivalent — and only the Open championship is older. This is the 88th staging of it and the first at Stellenbosch, a town known for its university and wine industry.

The club's 1300 members would not recognise the course, which was founded by Simon van der Stel in 1679, as it has been toughened considerably. Two par 5s have been turned into par 4s while all 37 bunkers have been remodelled and filled with white sand. Two new bunkers have been built, as have some new tees.

At 7,131 yards it is the longest sea-level course to host the Open, 550 yards longer than the Durban Country Club and 440 yards longer than the Royal Cape. Furthermore, the par is 71 instead of the club's 72. Yesterday morning, a firm wind was blowing, promising to present the players with a further challenge.

Ernie Els is the most likely winner. It may only be his second tournament of the year, but at Houghton Golf Club, where he comfortably won the PGA Championship by four strokes from Richard Kaplan, his compatriot, last Sunday, he demonstrated that he is in the kind of form that will be required during the days ahead.

Els also has an excellent record in this Open, having won it on three occasions and twice been runner-up.

He left Johannesburg swiftly on Sunday, anxious to get to his home in George, a small town 300 miles north east of here, for a couple of days. He has spent most of the past month there and may not spend any more time at home until September. He is happy, relaxed and prepared for another long season — despite all the travelling that goes with it.

Woosnam, on the other hand, has become a most reluctant traveller. "Do I enjoy it?" he asked himself wearily on the eve of his first event of the year. "No, I do not. You go from Europe to the US to Europe again. We are in South Africa now, then we go to Australia, back to Dubai and on to the US and then back to Europe again. I spend half my life on aeroplanes."

Woosnam has arrived later than he intended after being unable to make suitable travel arrangements at the weekend and, as a result, has had time only for one practice round. That is one more than Torrance, who played only nine holes on Tuesday and then withdrew from the pro-am yesterday with a stiff neck.

Faldo arrived on Saturday after missing the cut in Johannesburg and immediately started practising. Helped by Robert Baker, Els's coach, he has been trying to get some width into his backswing. It is the first time for ages that he has not said he is troubled by his hips.

"I got here and thought 'I had better start doing some work'," Faldo said, as if he had done nothing in Johannesburg. "Any golf course is challenging to me at the moment. I have to be honest and say I am not playing well and so I have to go to the range to try and find something. I cannot leave if it is not right because then I'll worry all night."

Justin Rose, 18, narrowly failed to gain a place in the field. In a pre-qualifying tournament on Tuesday his score of 69 looked as though it would be good enough, but, in the end, he had to compete in a play-off and did not make it. He is fourth alternate.

# Brooks refuses to shrink from task







Joce Brooks claims that only a headcase could fail to recognise the shiny future beckoning the England cricket team, but before you call for the men in white coats — and, as a sports science graduate, some people think that she wears one — Brooks is not talking about the men.

When the senior women's squad assembles at Lilleshall tomorrow for its first training weekend since Paul Farbrace, the former Kent and Middlesex wicketkeeper, took over as coach, Brooks, a sports psychologist from Eastbourne, will be talking England's finest to the sunny side of the crease.

"It doesn't take someone in my job to see the advantage in emphasising this is a new era," she said. "It was clear from when we conducted fitness tests on the players last November that everybody involved recognised the sense of opportunity. I would be silly not to make the most of that."

It was Steve Bull, who is responsible for teasing some of the mental toughness from the England men that oozes so naturally from their Australian counterparts, who introduced Brooks to women's cricket in 1987. She says that her work is about getting the best from each individual. "There are so many facets that come into sporting performance," she said. "Someone's mental strength might be absolutely fine, whereas another person's might need a key turning to unlock doors.

"Building confidence and making sure team harmony is as effective as possible are vital, and so is allowing people to talk about the pressures in high-level sport."

Even so, her profession still arouses suspicion in some sporting quarters. "Those people who think there is a bit of a 'shrink' image attached to sports psychology are usually the ones who have had a bad experience from it," Brooks said. "The challenge then is to get something across that might be helpful in a way they can respond to. I have to be quite open-minded."

Brooks, 28, is certainly in demand, working with a variety of individuals and teams in sports such as equestrianism, karate and bowls. Much of her time, though, is devoted to cricket. In addition to her commitment to the national women's team, she is also working with the England under-17 squad.

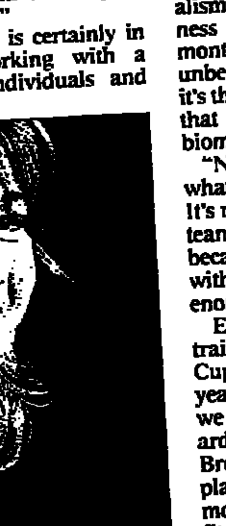
Brooks has enrolled at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education to study for a PhD. It is where Bull lectures. "A lot of female sports psychologists will have doctorates in the future because it will be necessary for credibility," she said. "Also, I wanted to get back into the research side as well as working in cricket."

Brooks is equally interested in the physiology side of sports science. It is a duel interest that ought to benefit women's cricket. "The fitness of the squad is now much more part of my job," she said. "Some people used to say that I was a bit soft at times and used to let players get away with too much. Although I'd like to think that wasn't the case, I now have much more influence and have introduced a minimum standard to bring the women into line with what the boys and men are doing."

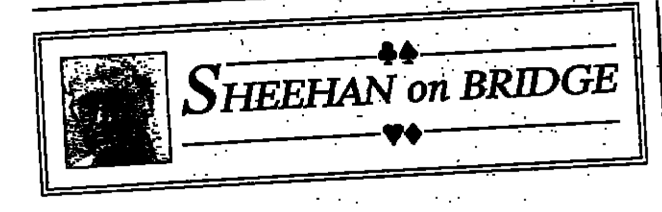
The merger with the England and Wales Cricket Board has expanded the budget for the women's game but Brooks intends to tighten some waistlines. "We can enforce more professionalism now," she said. "The fitness weekend a couple of months ago was unbelievable for me because it's the first time we have had that sort of time for biomechanical assessments.

"Now the players know what they have to achieve. It's right for an international team to be run like that, because you can't get away with players who are not fit enough."

Eyes are already being trained on the next World Cup, in New Zealand in two years. "If we're going to win we have to equal the standards Australia have set," Brooks said. "I think the players are ready to take more responsibility for their fitness and decide where their strengths and weaknesses are. It's a different approach entirely and it really starts this weekend."



Brooks knows importance of mental and physical toughness





BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

An opening bid of Three No-Trumps, sometimes known as the "Gambling Three No-Trumps", conventionally shows a solid seven-card minor with little or no outside strength. Terence Reese considered the name inappropriate because partner knows what is happening.

Dealer West — E-W game — IMPs

North: ♠ A Q 9 8 6 2 ♡ J 4 ◇ A 9 7 4 ♣ 10

West: ♠ 10 5 3 ♡ 9 8 ◇ – ♣ A K Q 8 7 5 4 2

East: ♠ K J 7 ♡ 10 7 ◇ K Q J 6 5 ♣ J 9 3

South: ♠ 4 ♡ A K Q 6 5 3 2 ◇ 10 8 3 2 ♣ 6

| W | N | E | S |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 NT | Pass | 4 C | 4 H |
| 5 C | 5 H | All Pass | |

Contract: Five Hearts by South. Lead: ace of clubs.

On the deal above East could tell that the hearts would be wide open in Three No-Trumps, so she bid Four Clubs, asking partner either to pass or to convert to diamonds. When South came in with Four Hearts, West made an undisciplined call of Five Clubs, which jostled North into Five Hearts. After the ace of clubs lead, West continued with a small spade and declarer set up the spades by playing the ace and ruffing two rounds, using the jack of hearts as the entry for ruffing the third round. After declarer had drawn trumps the ace of diamonds provided an entry to cash the spades, and twelve tricks were made.

West wondered if she had missed an opportunity for a "brilliant underlead": if she led a low club to East's jack at trick one, East could have given her a diamond ruff. Sadly, it seemed that whilst this would hold declarer to eleven tricks he would still make his contract. Then it dawned upon everyone that the brilliant underlead, followed by a brilliant refusal to ruff East's king of diamonds return would defeat the contract. The diamond attack prematurely knocks out one of the two entries needed to set up and enjoy the long spades.

The 1999 Macallan International Pairs started yesterday at the White House Hotel, Regents Park, London. The early leaders were the holders, Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, of Norway, who beat Boris Schapri and Irvine Gordon 59-1 in the first round.





BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Joint lead

After three rounds of the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee, in Holland, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, has moved up to share the lead with Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster.

Both contestants have 2½ points from a possible three. In the third round, Anand drew his game against Alexei Shirov, while Kasparov gradually overcame the resistance of Alexander Yermolinsky.

White: A Yermolinsky
Black: G Kasparov
Wijk aan Zee, 1999
Grunfeld Defence

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Nf3 | c5 |
| 2 | c4 | Nf6 |
| 3 | Nc3 | d5 |
| 4 | cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 5 | d4 | Nxc3 |
| 6 | bxc3 | g6 |
| 7 | e4 | Bg7 |
| 8 | Be3 | Qa5 |
| 9 | Qd2 | Bg4 |
| 10 | Rc1 | Bxf3 |
| 11 | gxf3 | e6 |
| 12 | d5 | exd5 |
| 13 | exd5 | Nd7 |
| 14 | c4 | Qb6 |
| 15 | Bh3 | f5 |
| 16 | 0-0 | Qd6 |
| 17 | Bf4 | Be5 |
| 18 | Rfe1 | 0-0-0 |
| 19 | Bxe5 | Nxe5 |
| 20 | Qc3 | Rhe8 |
| 21 | Re3 | Qf6 |
| 22 | f4 | Nd7 |
| 23 | Bg2 | Qxc3 |
| 24 | Rcxc3 | Nf6 |
| 25 | Bf3 | Rxe3 |
| 26 | fxe3 | Rd6 |
| 27 | Ra3 | Kb8 |
| 28 | Rb3 | Ra6 |
| 29 | a3 | Ne8 |
| 30 | e4 | fxe4 |
| 31 | Bxe4 | Nd6 |
| 32 | Bd3 | Ra4 |
| 33 | Rc3 | Kc7 |
| 34 | Kf2 | b5 |
| 35 | cxb5 | Kb6 |
| 36 | Ke3 | c4 |
| 37 | Bc2 | Nxb5 |
| 38 | Bxa4 | Nxc3 |
| 39 | Be8 | Kc5 |
| 40 | d6 | Nd5+ |
| 41 | Ke4 | Nf6+ |
| 42 | Ke3 | Kxd6 |
| 43 | Bf7 | Kc5 |
| 44 | h4 | Ng4+ |
| 45 | Kd2 | Kd4 |
| 46 | h5 | gxh5 |
| 47 | Bxh5 | Nf6 White resigns |

Diagram of final position

## Fide rankings

Fide, the World Chess Federation, has published its new year list of the top 100 rankings worldwide. The leading positions are: 1 Garry Kasparov (Russia) 2,812; 2 Viswanathan Anand 2,783; 3 Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 2,740; 4 Alexei Shirov (Spain) 2,726; 5 Alexander Morozevich (Russia) 2,723; 6 Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) 2,714; 7 Peter Leko (Hungary) 2,711; 8 Anatoly Karpov (Russia) 2,710; 9 Michael Adams (England) 2,710; Peter Svidler (Russia) 2,703; Nigel Short (England) 2,697.

## Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

**WORD-WATCHING**

By Philip Howard

TAUTOG
a. A tautology
b. A neckband
c. A fish

URAEUS
a. A planet
b. A snake
c. A Roman God

TALMA
a. A cloak
b. A board game
c. Ayrshire fudge

TRAGELAPH
a. A tragedian's assistant
b. A fabulous beast
c. A capitular script

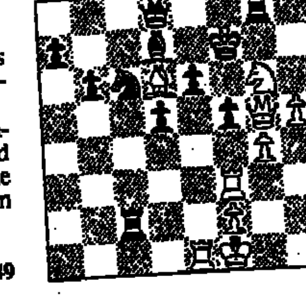
Answers on page 49

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sutovski — Grabarczyk, Poland, 1998.

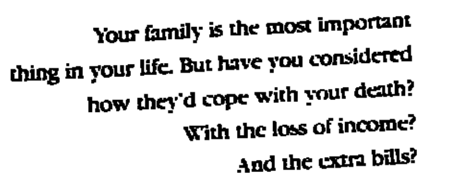
White's pieces are swarming around the black king and it is thus not surprising that he can land a decisive blow. Can you see it?



Solution on page 49

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MOTOR RALLYING

# McRae joy hinges on official verdict

FROM JEREMY HART IN MONTE CARLO

COLIN McRAE should not get too attached to the trophy and four championship points he was awarded here yesterday for an unexpected third place in the Monte Carlo Rally, the opening round of the world championship.

Both might have to be handed back in a fortnight if the Scot's controversial Ford Focus — which has an oversized water pump — is found illegal by the sport's governing body, the FIA. The car was only allowed to start in Monte Carlo under appeal.

"It is more of a misunderstanding than an illegal part, but I'd be the victim if they took the points away. I hope it won't come to that," McRae said. "But even if they do take our place and the points, it won't take anything away from the result."



McRae: potential victim

McRae shocked his fellow drivers with the car's turn of speed. Four times in 14 stages, McRae and Nicky Grist, his co-driver, set the fastest time. Yesterday morning they were challenging for second place when a rear drive shaft broke.

"The Ford was very impressive," Tommi Makinen, the rally winner, said. "For the rally it was better it competed. Now for Colin and the sport. I just hope they fix the problem."

It was only at a shake-down test the day before the start of the rally that Ford realised that last-minute changes to the engine and the steering had transformed the Focus into a competitive machine.

"Monte Carlo is not always a good indicator of how fast a car is, but if it is fast again in Sweden and Kenya, then the other teams had better take notice," McRae said. "But this is a new car and there is still a lot more to do."

Makinen's win was the three times world champion's first in the Monte Carlo rally. His job was made easier by the early departure of Carlos Sainz, whose Toyota crashed out in the first five miles.

"Carlos is going to be really angry now," Makinen, from Finland, said. "First he lost the RAC and the title to me, and now I win here when he crashes out. In Sweden he will want to win very badly."

Juha Kankkunen, 39, also from Finland, finished runner-up, in his first drive for Subaru. For the first time in almost five years, since Toyota were banned from rallying, he feels as if he has a chance of winning the world championship. "This car is the Rolls Royce of rally cars. A real joy to drive," he said. "I think it is good enough to really give me a chance of [winning] the title."

Richard Burns, of Great Britain, finished ninth, a legacy of time lost during two crashes on the treacherous first stage. The Oxford driver, in his first year with Subaru, complained of wrong tyre choices through the rest of the rally.

"Of course we have encountered some problems along the way here, so we have tried a range of different settings," Burns, winner of the Network Q Rally of Great Britain in November, said.

"We have tried to learn as much about the car as well as working with the team as I possibly could. I am positive that what I have learned will mean that Sweden is a whole lot better."

Harri Rovenpera secured a first world championship stage win for Seat on the final stage.

# Hanley's career takes wing

**Christopher Irvine** charts the sudden emergence of an exceptional England prospect



PHIL NOBLE

Hanley breaks clear of the Northampton defence to score a try earlier this season

Ideally, the modern rugby union wing should be a 6ft 4in, 16st slab of granite. In other words, a back built like a forward, but with pace — lots of pace. Steve Hanley is that perfect specimen, who clocks 11 seconds for 100 metres, bulldozes opponents or simply skips past them. Moreover, he is a young man in a hurry.

Remarkably, Hanley, 19, was still playing outside centre for Aspatria in the Jewson League second division north when the season began. By the end of September he had joined Sale, had been given his chance on the left wing, where he had only occasionally played before, and, in five appearances in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, has scored seven tries with an assurance that is often breathtaking.

It is a strike-rate consistent with 30 tries for Aspatria last season and another 15 in nine games for the Whitehaven rugby league academy team — "something to keep me fit over the summer" — which alerted Wigan Warriors and at least two other JJB Super League clubs to his potential. Nevertheless, his immediate future rests in union and, for the past fortnight, he has been involved in England's technical sessions after an impressive under-21 debut against South Africa.

Such a rapid elevation could go to an impressionable head, but Hanley is a down-to-earth Cumbrian, whose biggest concern this week, in a hectic schedule of Sale and England squad training, contract talks and moves to hire an agent, was keeping up with his second-year sports science studies at Central Lancashire University, Preston.

"Obviously, playing for England is a long-term goal, but cementing my first-team place at Sale is the most important thing. Everything has come at once, but, if you let your head go, your feet won't follow," he said. With such an attitude, he will go far.

Just how far and how rapidly are two fascinating questions. Hanley's star quality is based on a mere handful of appearances. Spencer Brown, Paul Sampson and Tom Beim, Hanley's erstwhile Sale colleague, were all one-cap wonders on the wing in the southern hemisphere last summer. In 12 matches in the past year, England have tried ten wings without settling on the right combination.

John Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby and England assistant coach, said: "It's no secret that England have something of a wing problem. Dan Luger has made a good impression coming into the side. Steve's made rapid progress in a short time and is World Cup material. Everything's going for him right now. The test will be to see how he responds mentally when he's at a low point.

"I'd reckon he's here to stay. He's not only strong, quick and genuinely exciting, he has all the skills. His good passing ability comes from playing at centre, but he's got great confidence on the wing, not arrogance, to beat his man — and that's important."

Clive Woodward, the England coach, has been invited by Mitchell to Heywood Road for Sale's league match on Saturday against Newcastle Falcons, primarily to judge David Rees and Tony Underwood in opposition on the flanks, but also to see whether Hanley sustains the form that some observers reckon should see him fast-tracked into the senior national side.

**'He's not only strong and quick, he has all the skills'**

It is a suggestion that brought a fatherly note of caution from Melvyn Hanley, the director of rugby at Aspatria, where Hanley began playing, aged 9. "He's still worlds away from playing for England, though he has every attribute to make it to the top," he said. "His great thing is his level-headedness. He knows he's only played a few top games, but from Aspatria to Sale in only a few months, he's made fantastic progress."

"I put it down to the quality of players around me and the regime under John Mitchell at Sale," Hanley said. A self-effacing nature belies a swagger on the field that, at the moment, is about pure enjoyment. The serious business can probably wait until a rich potential is fleshed out.

RUGBY UNION

# RFU faces threat of second fine

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE AND KARL JOHNSTON

WITH the maul over the Five Nations Championship over, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) must turn to its ruck with the world game. It has until today to file a written response to the guilty verdict reached last week by the International Rugby Board (IRB) of "conduct prejudicial to the interests of the board", for which a heavy fine can be expected.

The ultimate sanction would be suspension from the IRB, which would mean that England would be expelled from the World Cup in October, but that has been ruled out. Nevertheless, the unedifying spectacle of Twickenham and the world governing authority fighting again must inflict further damage on the game after the humiliating climbdown by the RFU on the sharing out of Five Nations television revenue.

Any fine would be the second financial penalty imposed on the RFU. It had £60,000 of IRB Trust funds withheld last month, after it had refused to pay a penalty for the same amount, for failing to prevent leading English clubs playing unauthorised matches with Cardiff and Swansea, the Welsh clubs.

At the centre of the latest dispute is a formal complaint lodged last April by English clubs with the European Commission about the insistence by the IRB that it should control rugby union at club level as well as the international game.

The clubs insist that the IRB is operating restrictive practices, which prevent them from negotiating their own commercial agreements for competitions in which they participate. However, what has particularly angered the IRB was that the RFU had offered "absolute and unqualified support" in its stance against English First-Division Rugby and ended up "reneging" on its pledge.

An IRB spokesman said: "We're still awaiting a response to the guilty verdict. If none is forthcoming, the disciplinary committee will probably decide next week any appropriate action."

The National Clubs' Association (NCA), which represents 42 Jewson League clubs, weighed into the row over a British league yesterday by opposing changes to the existing structure for a fourth consecutive season, which would damage the interests of smaller clubs.

The RFU has until the end of the month to announce a playing structure for next season. Colin Sewell, the NCA secretary, said: "This is as important as any RFU conflict with other nations. We are vehemently opposed to any proposed changes, at any level, which affect the playing goals during the season.

"The RFU signed the Mayfair Agreement last year. It states that any changes in the league structure would require 12 months' notice, would be minimal and could commence only when three years had elapsed after signing. Our view is that, as the Mayfair Agreement was legally ratified, it cannot be altered."

As Roger Pickering, the tournament director of European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) began his state-of-play press conference in Dublin yesterday, only 600 tickets remained unsold for the final next week between Ulster and Colomiers at Lansdowne Road. It was safe to assume that they had gone by the end of the media briefing, so, for the first time outside of international matches, Lansdowne Road will be full to its 49,000 capacity, which will be the biggest attendance yet at the final of the European competition in its four-year history.

"The match is a sell-out," Philip Browne, the secretary of the Irish Rugby Football Union, said. "We have 28,000 tickets in Ulster at the moment, 8,000 more than the original allocation. The rest of the tickets are divided out between the other provinces and Colomiers."

**Andrew Aitken, the South Africa back row forward, has retired because of his business commitments. Aitken, an Oxford Blue in 1993, won the last of his six caps as a replacement in South Africa's tri-nations victory over Australia last August. He also represented Scotland in the World Cup sevens tournament of 1994 and played a season of rugby league in Perth.**

# Derbyshire chairman likely to go

BY RICHARD HOBSON

VIC BROWNETT, the chairman, is expected to become a casualty of the continuing struggle for power at Derbyshire. He is understood to be considering his position and may step down today when the committee will discuss Dominic Cork's request to leave, although he has three years of his contract to run.

The resignation of Brownett, who says the internecine squabbles of the past four months have put pressure on his family and business, would leave Derbyshire in a state of flux five days ahead of the annual meeting, at which members are expected to call for a special meeting to remove the committee en bloc.

Brownett has been unable to broker a settlement between Cork, the captain, and Harold Rhodes, a committee member whom the England all-rounder wanted to see prevented from influencing cricket issues. "This has damaged my credibility, my relationship with the committee and, most important, the reputation of the club," Brownett said.

With Kim Barnett having been allowed to leave, Cork determined to end a ten-year association and influential members, including Chris Middleton, a former chairman, pushing for the removal of Rhodes, it is possible that all of the leading protagonists in the dispute could be gone by the start of the season.

Gladstone Small, the Warwickshire seam bowler, is to retire at the end of the 1999 season, his twentieth in county cricket.

"I have decided to give it one last go. I still feel I have something to offer on the field," he said yesterday. Small, 37, who played in 17 Tests for England, is expected to take up a full-time post in the Warwickshire marketing department.

CRICKET: YORKSHIREMAN'S SUCCESS PROVES HIGHLIGHT OF AUSTRALIA TOUR

# Dazzler can book place among stars of England's fast show

**Michael Henderson** salutes the rapid rise of Darren Gough, one of the world's finest pace bowlers

AFTER a busy week of one-day cricket, in which England have shuttled to and fro between Sydney and Melbourne, winning games convincingly to come within a whisker of confirming their place in the final of this triangular tournament, the players are resting before they meet Sri Lanka on Saturday in the "City of Churches". It's feet-up time.

One or two can be excused for feeling a bit tired, though Alec Stewart is having none of it, saying that winning games does more for aching limbs than medication ever can. If he had been a soldier in Napoleon's army, Stewart would probably have found the Spanish campaign a bit hard going, "but there's always another battle. We'll get a result at Austerlitz".

The other man entitled to be feeling weary is Darren Gough. How well he has bowled here, thoroughly living up to his pet name, Dazzler. It is not often that a bowler takes the eye with brilliant attacking cricket in the shorter game, but Gough showed again in Sydney and Melbourne that he is now an officer in the Fast Brigade. It was not just excellent "one-day" bowling — it was outstanding fast bowling, plain and simple. He blew the Sri Lankans away.

It seems a long time ago that Gough first went overseas, with the A team to South Africa five winters ago. He was a shade tubby in those days ("but never a porker", as he once said, memorably) and a member of the tour party said of him: "We have to find out whether he will make a third seamer." He's come a long way since then — and the journey is not yet complete.

England have not produced many fast bowlers and still fewer great ones. Bob Willis was the last of that breed and he retired 15 years ago. Before him came John Snow and, before him, Brian Statham and Fred Trueman, who, younger readers may like to know, really was as good as he says. Frank Tyson was, for two years, murderously fast. That's five in half a century, not a dainty dish to set before the king.

Gough has now reached the point in his career when he can join that company. His skill, rhythm and mood have conjoined in a happy alliance that may enable him, in the next year or two, to become that rarest of beings, a great bowler. At the moment, he is in the very good category, a step behind Allan Donald and Glenn McGrath.

In terms of pace, his captain puts him behind Donald, who can sustain it for long spells and who is undoubtedly one of the really great fast bowlers of the past 50 years. How he finished on the losing side in England last summer is still a bit of a mystery, but he has certainly made up for it since, bowling West Indies to their doom in South Africa.

Gough seems to know that he is entering the best period of his life. Having missed the tour last winter to West Indies through injury, he has completed consecutive series, against South Africa and Australia, and will return to England with his reputation enhanced substantially. In Australia, where charlatans and scrimshankers are called for what they are, players and public alike acknowledge the Yorkshireman to be a worthy foe.

"I wanted to be as consistent as other fast bowlers were for their countries," Gough said after he took four Sri Lankan wickets in Melbourne on Tuesday. "I would say that on this tour I have been consistent. I see myself as England's opening bowler and I'm proud to be that."

Red-cheeked, lithe, bronzed and full of purpose, Gough cuts a fine figure these days. His action, in its economy and fluidity, is lovely and, when he lets the ball go, he usually asks questions of the batsman. His most obvious highlight was the first day of the Sydney Test, when he took a hat-trick, but there have been other times when he has bowled as well for little reward.

"It was just about the perfect bowling display," Stewart said of the most recent match, when Gough sent back four batsmen, including the dangerous Jayasuriya, before taking a blow. In Sydney, he was no worse, dismissing two more dashers, Gilchrist and Ponting, and nearly getting a third. Hussain, at gully, missed Mark Waugh early in his innings.

Gough's response to that drop was typical. Later in the over, when Hussain made a fine stop in that position, to deny Waugh runs, he blew him an imaginary kiss, as if to say: 'No matter, Nass, we can still win this game'. One of Gough's finest qualities, perhaps his finest, is his knowledge that, win or lose, it is only a game, one to be enjoyed.

England's chances of winning the World Cup, when it is staged on their own turf later this year, depend to a large extent on whether Gough carries his present form beyond Easter. Of course, there are people who think that England winning the World Cup is a foolish dream, but it is not. They need half a dozen players to show their hand and Gough, it becomes clearer by the day, is the key man. He's a star.

IAN WALDIE



Gough's performances have lifted him among the ranks of the best England fast bowlers of the past 50 years

DESIKAN KRISHNAN



Armed security forces have been put on a round-the-clock watch in Madras

# Protests gain momentum

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SECURITY forces in India are preparing for the worst as the Pakistan cricket tour of the country approaches. Armed personnel yesterday guarded the ground at Madras, where the first Test begins a week from today, as a militant Indian leader vowed that his regional right-wing Hindu party would sabotage the tour.

Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena party has already dug up the pitch at one of the Test venues and was believed to be behind the ransacking on Monday of the headquarters of the Indian Cricket Board.

"We won't disclose our plans, but the truth is that Pakistan will not be allowed to play," Thackeray said in a television interview.

The intensity of the situation escalated yesterday when an autorickshaw driver set himself ablaze in Madras. The man, not named but said to be a member of a Hindu militant group by an Indian press agency, was taken to hospital with serious burns. Also in Madras, police arrested 100 activists of Shiv Sena.

The Pakistan squad is due to fly into New Delhi this afternoon for the first Test series between the two countries for 12 years.

Thackeray's party, based in Bombay, says it will mobilise 25,000 supporters during the tour and claims to have formed a 50-member suicide squad who will set themselves alight in front of the prime minister's house when the first Test opens.

The Shiv Sena has little support outside of its home state of Maharashtra, but raised its profile by becoming part of India's loose coalition government.

Thackeray has a long history of making inflammatory threats against Pakistan. In the World Cup in 1996, he said that Pakistani players who dared to enter the country would have their legs broken by iron bars. Pakistan, however, played in India without incident.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Indian prime minister, has denounced Thackeray's comments and called for the tour to go ahead. The Shiv Sena says it opposes the tour because of the support of Islamabad for Moslem separatists in Kashmir, a region claimed by both India and Pakistan and the root cause of continuing tension between the countries.

In another security measure, the India team will return from their tour of New Zealand unannounced. They had been expected to touch down in Bombay, but an undisclosed new itinerary has been drawn up.

The first day of the England A team's four-day match against Mashonaland in Harare was washed out yesterday after heavy overnight rain left large areas of the outfield under water.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL

# Wilkinson bows to pressure from clubs

BY MATT DICKINSON AND GEORGE CAULKIN

ENGLAND could be without 30 first-choice players for the world youth championship in April because of the demands of the country's leading clubs. The Football Association insisted last night, however, that it would be sending a party to Nigeria provided that health and security concerns were satisfied.

Fears had been expressed that the FA would try to force clubs to release players for the tournament, which falls just as the domestic season is reaching its climax. In order to counter those concerns, Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director, met Peter Leaver, QC, chief executive of the FA Premier League, and Richard Scudamore, chief executive of the Football League, last week to agree a compromise.

The trio crossed 28 players off a provisional list of 66 under-20s because they could be involved in first-team games. The list ranged from Michael Owen, a regular for



Wilkinson: compromise

both England and Liverpool, to Joe Cole, the West Ham United prodigy who is just breaking into the senior team.

It was at the championship in Malaysia in 1997 that Owen began his rise to international prominence. "It is the second most important tournament in the world," Wilkinson said. "It is about developing young players, and if you look at the England team, particularly over the last two years, the squad has been predominantly of people who have appeared for England teams since schooldays."

The FA will today announce that the Nationwide Building Society is to sponsor the senior England team for the next four years in a deal likely to be worth up to £12 million. The Nationwide has suggested that the new contract will not affect its intention to renew its sponsorship deal with the Football League, which expires in the summer.

Rob Jones accepts that his Liverpool career is over, but he will not be rushed into making a decision about his future. The defender, who has not played for eight months because of a knee injury, has been told that he does not figure in the plans of Gerard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, and intends to speak to several interested clubs, among them Arsenal, West Ham United and Rangers. "I've had seven great years at Anfield but to know that top teams like these are interested is great," Jones, who can leave on a free transfer in the summer, said.

Marco Branca, the Italian forward whose goals helped Middlesbrough into the FA Carling Premiership last season, has been forced to retire. A knee injury that he sustained in a match against Manchester City last April has failed to respond to intensive treatment. Branca, 34, who joined in a £1 million transfer from Internazionale 11 months ago, scored ten times in 14 appearances for Middlesbrough, including a debut goal in the semi-final of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Ron Atkinson, the new Nottingham Forest manager, is biding his time before deciding whether to attempt to sign Mark Hughes from Southampton. "I haven't made a bid and I'm not too sure Dave Jones [the Southampton manager] would want to sell me another one of his players," Atkinson, who completed the £1.1 million signing of Carlton Palmer from the same club on Wednesday, said, "but Mark is the sort of player you would like in your camp and we'll see what happens."

Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, is thought to be considering a bid for Taribo West, the Internazionale and Nigeria defender, who also interests Liverpool.

The FA Cup third-round replay between Notts County and Sheffield United, postponed last night because of a waterlogged pitch, will now be played on Saturday, with the winners at home to Cardiff City in the fourth round next Wednesday.



Knight, now the third-choice goalkeeper, may emerge from the Fratton Park shadows to play against Leeds United in the FA Cup on Saturday

# Portsmouth still in debt to Knight

## Financially troubled club may turn to their veteran goalkeeper once again, says Russell Kempson

When Alan Knight signed for Portsmouth on his fourteenth birthday it caused much mirth among his team-mates in the Inner London Schools side. Portsmouth were sinking, turfs from the Fratton Park pitch were being cut and sold to raise funds, and the vultures were circling.

Knight, born in Balham, South London, was ridiculed. "Most of the other lads had signed with West Ham, Tottenham or Arsenal and took great delight in telling me that my club was going bust by the end of the week," he said. "It was, too. The SOS [Save Our Soccer] Pompey campaign was in full swing and, at one stage, it looked as if we were going under. We were 48 hours from going broke.

"We didn't, of course. People rallied round, the money was raised before the time limit was up and things were OK for a while. We had a few good years, we were getting crowds of 25,000 in the fourth division, and then it all started to slide again. At times it can be heartbreaking, but you get used to it at Pompey."

Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division club, are sliding again, £5 million in the red, losing £5,000 a day and facing a winding-up petition from the Inland Revenue for debts of £405,000. Blue Star Garages, the club's parent company, narrowly escaped another High Court order yesterday after agreeing to settle a bill of £435,000 owing from the construction of the K J C Stand.

Knight, 37, greets the end of each month with trepidation, unsure whether his wages will be paid. The sense of déjà vu and helplessness can be overwhelming. "This is the worst it's been," he said. "As players, there's not a great deal we can do. We've just got to get on with it. There'll always be a football club, it's just a case of sorting it out. Even if it went to the wall, I'm sure someone would come in and pick us up."

Now approaching the end of a career spanning 22 seasons and 782 matches, Knight is no longer considered Portsmouth's first-choice goalkeeper, but with Andy Petterson ineligible and Aaron Flahavan recovering from a stomach injury, he is likely to play against Leeds United in the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Fratton Park on Saturday.





The Cup has been kind to Knight. And cruel. In the 1991-92 season, Portsmouth played Liverpool in the semi-final and were beaten 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Highbury and 0-0 draw in the replay at Villa Park. "The lads kept joking that I could save a penalty if I wanted," Knight said. "I told them that it might be nice if they could score one. It was huge pressure. I think it got to one or two of us."

Two years ago, under the bizarre and ultimately fruitless chairman-manager combination of Terry Venables and Terry Fenwick, Portsmouth defeated Leeds 3-2 at Elland Road before losing 4-1 at home to Chelsea in the quarter-finals. "We got the tactics spot-on at Leeds," Knight said. "We should have won by more. Against Chelsea, we went the other way. Most of us hardly knew what was going on."

A third division winner's medal in 1983, five England youth caps and two at under-21 level barely seem an adequate reward for such one-club loyalty. Prospective moves to West Ham United and Arsenal never materialised, but a testimonial year reaped £100,000 and he can now afford to trade in his much-travelled Mercedes for an almost-new Rover. It was not always so.

Knight now lives in Milton, half a mile from Fratton Park, with his wife Jennifer and daughters Jade, 11, and Rebekah, 6. He tries to contemplate his future rationally, but is confused by sentiment and uncertainty. "I'd like to go into coaching, I'd like to maybe manage this club one day," he said, "but no one really knows what's going on here at the moment. Everything is in limbo.

"I'm seriously considering retiring. I keep thinking my next game could be my last, and perhaps it would be nice to go out with a win against Leeds. The adrenaline is pumping again already. Trouble is, I'd then want to play in the next round."

# Wales prefer to welcome Denmark in Cardiff

WALES are likely to switch their European championship qualifying tie against Denmark on June 9 from Anfield to Ninian Park, bowing to the wish of many of the players (Russell Kempson writes). Although it will reduce the profitability of the match, with Cardiff City's ground able to hold a crowd of only 12,000, the players feel that it will give them a better chance of beating the Danes.

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) had nominated Anfield as the venue — Wales lost 2-0 there to Italy in their opening group one match in September — but it informed Uefa, the sport's European governing body, last week that it wanted to revert to Ninian Park. Although the Danish FA has yet to be consulted, it has raised no objections to the change of plan.

After losing to Italy and surprisingly beating Denmark 2-1 in Copenhagen in October, Wales overcame Belarus 3-2 at Ninian Park in front of a passionate Welsh audience. "The fans were magnificent," Gary Speed, the Wales and Newcastle United midfield player, said. "The atmosphere was fantastic and we need that sort of intimidation to help us against Denmark."

Plans for a 45,000 all-seat stadium to be built on the outskirts of Dublin were announced by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) yesterday. It will cost almost £60.2 million and will include a running track and facilities for indoor sports and concerts. It should be ready for use by 2001.

The fair play prize of Fifa, the world governing body, for 1998 has been awarded jointly to Iran, the United States and Northern Ireland. Iran played the United States in Lyons during the World Cup finals in France and, despite the political differences between the countries, the match passed off without incident. The Irish FA has been honoured for its efforts to reunite Catholic and Protestant communites.

# FA takes positive steps on drug use

BY JOHN GOODBODY

PROFESSIONAL footballers in England are set to undergo an extra 500 dope tests from next season, specifically targeting social drugs such as cocaine and marijuana. The Football Association will fund the tests, which will double the number already carried out for both social and performance-enhancing substances.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "This means that we may visit clubs up to four times a season. We want to have a stronger presence at both training grounds and matches. Although we will continue testing for performance-enhancing substances, there is no evidence that there is widespread abuse of these drugs in English football.

"The problems which we have had in the past have largely been with social drugs, some of which have performance-enhancing properties." Since 1994, when a large-scale programme was introduced, 27 English footballers have been found positive, 26 of them for social drugs.

In recent years, several high-profile names, such as Chris Armstrong, of Tottenham Hotspur, and Lee Bowyer, then with Charlton Athletic, tested positive to the use of proscribed recreational drugs, while Paul Merson, then of Arsenal, publicly admitted to taking cocaine. Earlier this season, Ron Atkinson, now the manager of Nottingham Forest, alleged that drug-taking was rife in the FA Carling Premiership. However, the number of positive tests in English football has dropped each season from 12 in 1994-95, to seven, to five and then, last season, to three.

Double said that no positives had been recorded so far this season, something which, since 1994, had never been the case at this stage of the season. He said: "The deterrent system is working but now we want to increase the deterrent. We cannot be complacent."

He emphasised that the player would not know whether a urine sample would be analysed for all drugs banned by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or just for social substances. Analyses will be carried out at King's College, London University, the IOC-accredited laboratory.

Alan Hodson, the FA's head of sports medicine, said that the tests had the blessing of the Professional Footballers' Association. Last season 519 tests, funded partly by the FA and partly with Government money, were carried out in English football — 160 at Premiership clubs and the remainder in the Football League. Eighty were carried out after matches and the remaining were out-of-competition tests at training grounds.

## IN BRIEF

**BADMINTON:** Peter Knowles, the former England national champion, who was suspended for disciplinary offences at the Dutch Open last year, will make his comeback as the third seed when he attempts to regain the title at Haywards Heath between February 5 and 7 (Richard Eaton writes). Darren Hall, the title-holder and top seed, will be trying to extend his record of championships to ten.

**CYCLING:** Roger Hammond, of Great Britain, finished tenth in the second stage of the Australian Tour Down Under yesterday, credited with the same time as Erik Zabel, the winner and top sprinter in the Tour de France last year (Peter Bryan writes). Zabel, of Germany, is the overall leader by two seconds.

**RUGBY LEAGUE:** Brian Gartland, the former Oldham coach, who discovered Andy Goodway, now in charge of the Great Britain team, as a 17-year-old, has died, aged 62. Gartland was a member of the Oldham coaching staff for 25 years and also signed stalwarts Terry Flanagan, Ray Ashton and Mick Worrall for the club.

RUGBY LEAGUE

# RFL to canvass players on dates

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALL 800 professional players are to be canvassed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) about when and whether a revamped home international series can be accommodated in the congested schedule for the forthcoming season.

The Rugby League Players' Association (RLPA), which was angry at the lack of consultation by Super League Europe (SLE) about an additional seven matches for JJB Super League clubs and the reintroduction of midweek fixtures, believes that the players' views will carry weight. Abi Ekoku, the RLPA chairman, said: "I'm sure they will favour more representative rugby, because we see it as a way of expanding and developing the game, but let's come to an agreement on how it's planned."

The RFL wants to extend the triangular tournament, between Scotland, Ireland and France last season, into a five-nations event, but with the SLE decision to increase the number of Super League matches to 30, there is little room for manoeuvre in the summer programme.

An alternative is to arrange the international matches when Great Britain are involved in the new tri-nations tournament in Australia and New Zealand in October, although without the best players they would have limited value.

"It's a very congested fixture schedule because Super League clubs voted for extra games, but, with the World Cup in 2000, international preparation is important as well," Ekoku said.

Results of the survey, which will also take into account players' views on drugs and drugs testing, rule amendments and the adequacy of their insurance arrangements, will be announced before the start of the Super League season on March 5.

Salford Reds, who dispensed with 18 players after finishing one place off the bottom of the Super League last year, made their eleventh signing yesterday when Joey Hayes joined from St Helens on a one-year contract. Hayes, 23, has started only five senior matches on the wing since he suffered a serious knee injury on Great Britain's 1996 South Pacific tour.

"I'm hoping a change of club will herald a change of luck," Hayes said. "I underwent a knee reconstruction and then broke my wrist last season, but can resume playing in three weeks."

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

**TAUTOG**
(c) A labroid fish, Tautoga americana, also called black-fish or oyster-fish, abundant on the Adriatic coast of North America, and esteemed as food.

**URAEUS**
(b) A representation of the sacred asp, snake, or serpent, or of its head and neck, employed as an emblem of supreme power.

**TALMA**
(a) A cape or cloak worn by men, and also by women in the 19th century. The eponym of Francois Joseph Talma, French tragedian (1763-1826).

**TRAGELAPH**
(b) A name for some foreign species of capriform antelope or other horned beast, vaguely known to the ancients.

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**
1. Nh8+! Rxh8; 2. Qg6 checkmate.

## FOR THE RECORD

### BOWLS

HOPTON-ON-SEA, Norfolk: World indoor championships: Singles: Third round: M McMahon (Aus) bt J Price (Wales) 3-7, 7-6, 2-7, 7-5, 7-3; R Weale (Wales) bt J Greenslade (Wales) 3-7, 7-5, 7-6, 7-5. D Gourlay (Scot) bt N Kennedy (HK) 7-5, 7-4, 7-2. J Rose (Ire) bt I Taylor (Aus) 7-0, 5-7, 7-0, 7-2.

### BOXING

IPSWICH: British super-middleweight championship: D Stone (Ipswich, holder) bt W Quinn (Scot) rsc 3rd.

### CRESTA RUN

ENGADINE TOP HANDICAP: 1, D Pattinson (GB) 156.30; 2, T Hill (GB) 157.69; 3, P Mullen (Ire) 160.27; 4, M Mettler (Switz) 160.37; 5, B Coles (GB) 160.42.

### FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third-round replay: Postponed: Notts County v Sheff Utd.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Postponed: Dumbarton v Berwick.
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Second-round replay: Postponed: Clachnacuddin v Queen's Park.

*Tuesday's late results*

FA CUP: Third-round replay: Barnsley 3 Swindon 1.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford 2 Crystal Palace 1.
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section, second round: Hartlepool 2 Preston 2 (aet; 2-2 after 90min, Hartlepool win 4-3 on pens); Scunthorpe 1 Carlisle 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90min; Carlisle win 4-3 on pens); Wigan 3 Scarborough 0. Northern section, quarter-final: Wrexham 3 Chesterfield 2. Southern section, quarter-finals: Brentford 0 Walsall 0 (aet; Walsall win 4-3 on pens); Cambridge Utd 1 Exeter 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90min; Cambridge Utd win 5-3 on pens).
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie 0 Greenock Morton 2. Second division: Arbroath 2 Forfar 2.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Vandanel Trophy: Third round: Wivenhoe 4 Barking 1
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second round: Burscough 0 Trafford 0; Witton 1 Stalybridge Celtic 1.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP: Second-round replay: Rothwell 1 Grantham 0
FA TROPHY: Third round: Kingstonian 5 Kettering 2; Whitby 2 Frickley 1. Third-round replay: Guiseley 2 Chorley 1
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference: Hull 5 Scarborough 0
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: West Ham 2 Brighton 0
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 2 Man Utd 2. First division: Coventry 2 Oldham 0; Sheffield Wed 2 Grimsby 1
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Ossett Town 3 Hallam 2; Selby 3 Pontefract Cols 0.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Salford 3 Bootle 1
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Morpeth 0 Seaham RS 0
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Newmarket 5 Warboys 1.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: Floodlit Trophy: Third round: Fleetwood Freeport 1 Kidsgrove Ath 4
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Charlton 0 Crystal Palace 2; Liverpool 1 Wimbledon 2.

### ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 2 Buffalo 1, New York Rangers 1 Ottawa 2, Nashville 4 Vancouver 1, Calgary 3 Detroit 1; Phoenix 4 St Louis 2; Los Angeles 4 Colorado 5.

### MOTOR RALLYING

MONTE CARLO RALLY: Final positions: 1, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 5hr 16min 50.6sec; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin, Subaru) at 1min 44.7sec; 3, C McRae (GB, Ford) 3:16.8; 4, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) 3:52.8; 5, F Delecour (Fr, Ford) 4:01.2; 6, B Thiry (Bel, Subaru) 4:02.5; 7, P Liatti (It, Seat) 6:58.1; 8, H Rovanpera (Fin, Seat) 7:02.3; 9, R Burns (GB, Subaru) 9:24.6; 10, H Lundgaard (Den, Toyota) 14:06.2.

### SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 2d (Galapagos to Hawaii, with finishing times and dates): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 18:26 GMT, 19/1/99; 2, Chrysolite (T Hedges) TBC; 3, Mermerus (B Sotars) 04:51, 20/1/99; 4, Senca (R Dean) TBC; 5, Taeping (N Fleming) 91, 18:30, 20/1/99; 6, Antiope (K Harris) 87, 19:00, 20/1/99; 7 Thermopylae (M Tod) 180, 05:00, 21/1/99

### SNOOKER

NEWCASTLE: Nations Cup: Ireland bt Northern Ireland 6-5

### POOLS DIVIDENDS

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 23pts £1,961.00, 22 £6.80, 21 £0.75. Four draws: £9.80. Five aways: £0.50. Eight homes: £0.60
LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 23pts £43,747.10, 22 £325.85, 21 £26.90, 20 £6.55. Half-time: 24pts £100,000.00. Four draws: £19.15. Nine homes: £1.00. Five aways: £1.25
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £29,676.90, 23 £166.65, 22 £9.70, 21 £1.20. Four aways: £0.60. Eight homes: £0.50. Four draws: £8.00. Easy six: £3.25. All-draws treble chance: 24pts £91.65, 23 £1.00. Lucky numbers: 8 35 10 39 19 5

## FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

*Kick-off 7.30 unless stated*

RYMAN LEAGUE: Vandanel Trophy: Third round: Abingdon Town v Egham, Banstead v Epsom and Ewell.
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round: Colwyn Bay v Hednesford (7.45).
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North West Conference: Bury v Wrexham (2.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace v Gillingham.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Second division: Sheffield Utd v Notts County (2.0). League Cup: Group five: Oldham v Stoke (7.0).
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Fourth round: Sudbury Wanderers v Garforth Town (7.45).
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v St Margaretsbury. Challenge Trophy: Third round: Waltham Abbey v Islington St Mary's.

### OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Bracknell Bees (7.30).

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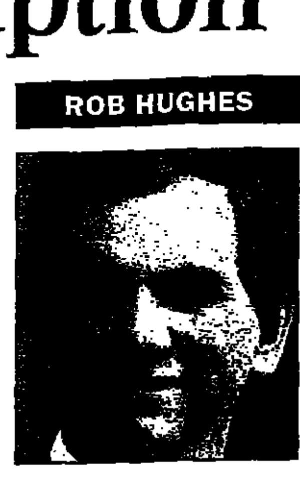
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## Samaranch refuses to take blame with accused colleagues

# Pound tries to unravel web of IOC corruption

ROB HUGHES



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the Olympic Movement, regrets that while he feels personally wounded by the deepening Salt Lake City vote-buying imbroglio, he is not ready to fall on the Samurai sword given to him before Nagano's successful bid for the 1998 Winter Games. The sword is expensive, 80 times in excess of the £100 limit on gifts *allowed to International Olympic* Committee members, but the president excludes himself on grounds that he does not vote.

Nor does Samaranch intend to jump from the mountain of corruption implicating 13 fellow International Olympic Committee (IOC) members in alleged favours of cash, scholarships, land and prostitution. The resignations and denials have begun and we are *promised* a full list of misdemeanours on Sunday, though *expulsions may not happen until mid-March.*

Samaranch sees this as a storm after which calm will prevail. "Let us not forget," the IOC president, 78, pleaded, "it was just a handful of individuals who acted improperly." Certainly, 13 is a small proportion of the landslide vote that won for Salt Lake City the right to spend $1.45 billion (*approaching* £1 *billion*) on the 2002 Winter Olympics, but it is at least two handfuls and more *than two heads for each of the* discredited Olympic rings.

Nevertheless, Samaranch is waiting for calm. He moves in his own rarified circle, among kings and heads of state. He seldom takes a limousine when a helicopter is available; his demands for the best suite in the house are, he believes, fitting reward for 18 years of *presidency during which the* Games have expanded from an almost shunned ideal to the bloated billionaire's dream show that they are now.

After bankrupting Montreal in 1976 and being boycotted in Moscow in 1980, the Summer Games became gargantuan once Los Angeles had made a profit of $200 million in 1984. *And, as with the football* World Cup, the race to procure the Games, summer and winter, has led to pampering the voting members and ultimately to corrupting them.

Samaranch would have us praise him for the profit and absolve him from responsibility for the greed. However, Richard Pound, a Montreal lawyer and possibly the next IOC president, *is not quite* following his leader. Pound heads a six-man commission that is investigating the misdeeds of his hierachical fellows and he is setting a course that will not quickly bring the convenient calm.

He hears big sponsors, who pay $48 million apiece each during each four-year Olym*pic cycle, threaten* that they will neither tolerate nor continue to pay an organisation that proffers a few *resignations* then fails to cleanse itself of members filling their boots while pontificating that the Games are the last refuge of honour and decency.

The Olympic ideal is of value to those sponsors, to us all, precisely because it aspires to something beyond the domain of cheap cheats. If among the *Godfathers of the Games are* now mercenaries, finagling the spoils of their privileged position, how can they meet — as they are due to do on February 2 — in the role of saviours driving drugs out of the world's competitive sporting arenas?

That drugs offensive is the most important fight for the soul of sport on earth. It cannot be led by a committee of 115 self-appointed guardians whose own credibility would be a laughing stock were it not so serious. Samaranch ap*pears not to recognise this;* Pound and others, who include both British members — The Princess Royal, who returned all gifts great and small, and Craig Reedie — must not let the opportunity go.

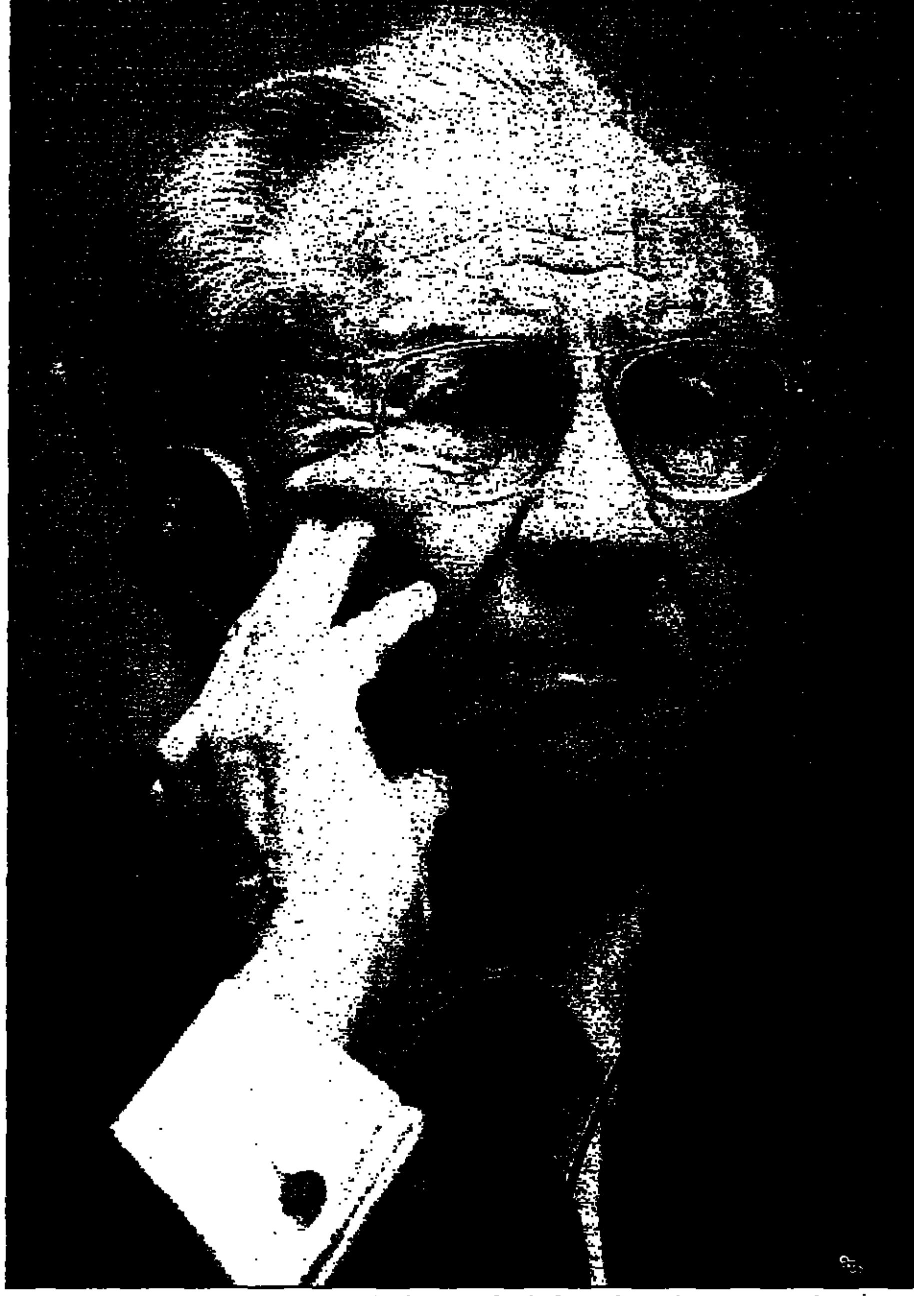
In Canada on Tuesday, Pound claimed that he once refused a *million-dollar* bribe connected to a television deal. "I reveal this to show there are high standards to which IOC members strive," he said. "The actions we are about to take will make it very clear we in*sist on the same high stand*ards of behaviour for ourselves as we do for athletes."

That action begins at *the* Chateau de Vidy by Lake Geneva this weekend and entails the IOC impugning and removing members, some of them senior and mightily influential in their own continents. Pound is aware that this is not the end, not the occasion to wipe the brow and enjoy the calm.

He advocates opening the inquiry to look at how the *Games were won as far back* as the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. "We started with Salt Lake because that's where we had the smoking gun," Pound said. "For us to say 'Thank God, we've dealt with Salt Lake, it never happened before and never happened since' doesn't seem credible."

So, Pound, sounding presi*dential, propounds* that the IOC should appoint an ombudsman to oversee each campaign, that members should be restricted to two visits per bidding city, that only two cities should contest the final candidature and that all transport should be handled by the IOC. In effect, he is acknowledging that the IOC, *that pampered and honoured* elite, needs policing.

Pound knows the villains; the rest of us are speculating. His desire to trace evidence backwards will be stymied by Nagano's admission that 90 volumes of accounts for its Olympic Bid were incinerated in 1992 — but burning the evidence will not stop the bush fire *that has now* ignited the Olympic rings.



Samaranch demands only the best service in his role as the IOC president

### THE ACCUSED AND THE ALLEGATIONS

- **Pirjo HAGGMAN:** Finland, IOC member since 1981, Olympic 400m runner, PE teacher, age 47. Her former husband benefited from work contracts in Salt Lake. She resigned from IOC on Tuesday.
- **Jean-Claude GANGA:** Republic of Congo, IOC since 1986, head of African National Olympic Committees, *former sports minister, age 64. Denies receiving US$70,000 and profiting from a land deal and medical services.*
- **Vitali SMIRNOV:** Russia, IOC since 1971, age 64. Denies that his stepson's scholarship and Salt Lake employment was arranged through the bidding committee.
- **Kim YONG-UN:** South Korea, IOC from 1986, *member of IOC Executive Board.* Insists allegations implicating him are a smear to damage his ambition to succeed President Samaranch.
- **Sergio SANTANDER:** Chile, member since 1992, age 71. Disputes Salt Lake bid president statement that he received US$10,000 towards his campaign as mayor of Santiago.
- **Augustin ARROYO:** Ecuador, IOC since 1968, age 75. Step-daughter hired by Utah economic development department "without her father's knowledge". He says $5,000 cash was reimbursement for air tickets.
- **Anton GEESINK:** Holland, member since 1987, Olympic judo champion. Accepted $5,000 towards his own Geesink Foundation, touring the globe to spread the Olympic word.
- **David SIBANDZE:** Swaziland, IOC since 1984, age 66. Son Sibo graduated from the University of Utah and worked with Salt Lake economic development office.
- **Bashir-M. ATTARBULSI:** Libya, IOC from 1977, age 61. Son avoided military call-up by accepting scholarship in Utah, a " humanitarian " act of friendship from a Salt Lake consultant.
- **Rene ESSOMBA:** Cameroon, elected IOC member 1978, surgeon. Daughter Sonia received Salt Lake *scholarship to university in Washington.*
- **Lamine KEITA:** Mali, IOC since 1977. Allegation unspecified.
- **Charles MUKORA:** Kenya, IOC from 1990. Allegation unspecified.
- ***THIRTEENTH** member to receive IOC letter of allegation as yet unidentified.*

# Commonwealth Games could lose £50m

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester could be heading for a loss of up to £50 million. The event, which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the Throne, is in turmoil, with the organisers wanting to drop seven sports.

An emergency meeting of the Commonwealth Games Council for England (CGCE) in London yesterday saw a video of a television programme which *said that there could be a deficit* of between £35 and £50 million. A spokesman for the Manchester organ*ising committee later described a* £50 million loss as a "worst-case scenario". The CGCE yesterday issued a "plea" to Manchester 2002 to "make full and frank financial information available so that informed joint decisions can be taken and ways forward examined." It *said it was "mindful of the potential* impact on the Manchester taxpayers".

Norman Sarsfield, the CGCE chair*man, said: "We do not want to see* these sports removed from the programme because we are mindful of *the negative impact that* would have on athletes preparing for the Games, on spectators who are looking forward to attend, and on the thousands who will volunteer to help stage their favourite sport." Seven sports have been targeted because they are claimed not *to be particularly popular with specta*tors and television viewers in the Commonwealth. They are gymnastics, *judo, squash, table tennis, triathlon,* weightlifting and wrestling.

The organisers particularly want to *include sports popular in the Common*wealth such as cricket, rugby union and netball. Sarsfield said: "We must do our best for English and British sport to ensure that the 2002 programme is substantially the same as that in the original bid. Otherwise, Britain's staging of other major sporting events may be put in jeopardy."

Five of the seven sports were included in the original bid. Squash and triathlon were optional. There will now be *a discussion between the CGCE and* the organising committee about how to include some team sports, without *deleting some of the individual sports.*

### SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

| | Depth (cm) L | Depth (cm) U | Piste | Conditions Runs to Resort | Off/p | Weather (5pm) | °C | Last snow |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Austria** | | | | | | | | |
| Kitzbühel | 20 | 79 | Good | Hard | Packed | Fine | 1 | 14/1 |
| Obergurgl | 45 | 180 | Good | Hard | Varied | Fine | -2 | 14/1 |
| Soll | 20 | 70 | Hard | Open | Packed | Fine | 1 | 14/1 |
| St Anton | 30 | 300 | Fair | Open | Varied | Sun | 1 | 14/1 |
| **Canada** | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Louise | 100 | 139 | Good | Open | Powder | Cloud | -1 | 20/1 |
| **France** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpe d'Huez | 60 | 170 | Good | Hard | Heavy | Sun | 4 | 18/1 |
| Argentiere | 50 | 110 | Good | Open | Packed | Fine | 1 | 14/1 |
| Avoriaz | 50 | 100 | Good | Open | Heavy | Fine | -10 | 14/1 |
| La Clusaz | 40 | 110 | Good | Open | Varied | Fine | -1 | 14/1 |
| La Plagne | 70 | 180 | Good | Worn | Varied | Fine | -2 | 14/1 |
| La Tania | 67 | 108 | Hard | Open | Varied | Sun | -1 | 14/1 |
| Les Arcs | 63 | 180 | Fair | Worn | Varied | Fine | 4 | 14/1 |
| Megève | 45 | 130 | Fair | Open | Varied | Sun | 5 | 14/1 |
| Méribel | 45 | 130 | Fair | Icy | Varied | Sun | 2 | 14/1 |
| Tignes | 63 | 180 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | -1 | 14/1 |
| Val d'Isère | 65 | 150 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | 3 | 14/1 |
| **Italy** | | | | | | | | |
| Cervinia | 45 | 180 | Good | Open | Varied | Fine | 2 | 14/1 |
| Cortina | 45 | 80 | Good | Hard | Powder | Sun | 1 | 14/1 |
| Livigno | 34 | 118 | Fair | Icy | Varied | Fine | -4 | 19/1 |
| **Norway** | | | | | | | | |
| Geilo | 70 | 70 | Good | Open | Packed | Sun | -4 | 17/1 |
| **Switzerland** | | | | | | | | |
| Crans Montana | 20 | 115 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | 6 | 14/1 |
| Davos | 40 | 130 | Good | Hard | Heavy | Fine | 3 | 14/1 |
| Grindelwald | 30 | 125 | Good | Open | Varied | Fine | 1 | 14/1 |
| Klosters | 35 | 135 | Hard | Open | Varied | Fine | -1 | 14/1 |
| Saas Fee | 45 | 235 | Good | Open | Varied | Fine | -1 | 14/1 |
| St Moritz | 40 | 80 | Fair | Open | Packed | Fine | -4 | 13/1 |
| Verbier | 20 | 180 | Fair | Worn | Varied | Sun | -2 | 14/1 |
| Wengen | 15 | 75 | Fair | Open | Varied | Sun | 4 | 14/1 |
| **United States** | | | | | | | | |
| Aspen | 93 | 123 | Good | Open | Powder | Fine | -7 | 19/1 |
| Deer Valley | 102 | 113 | Good | Open | Powder | Cloud | 4 | 19/1 |

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes U = upper slopes

SQUASH

# Corby offers to promote reduced British Open

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

*MIKE CORBY, the former* squash and hockey international, is considering organising a limited version of the British Open at Lambs Club in London to rescue the 77-year reputation of the game's premier tournament.

*After the decision on Tues*day by the Squash Rackets Association (SRA) to postpone the event, Corby, who is vice-president of both the SRA and the World Squash Federation, said that he was amazed that such a decision should be tak*en with no official approach* made to himself.

"I underwrote the 1998 British Open in which the men's title went to a home player, Peter Nicol, for the first time in 25 years," Corby, who runs a ten-club squash and fitness chain in London, said. "I had one letter in the middle of last year from an outside commercial consultant to which I did *not* bother to reply, but nobody else has contacted me either with thanks for last year's effort or to pursue a *repeat performance.*

"The British Open is the Blue Riband of squash around which the entire aura of the game is suspended. To allow the main titles to lapse, especially in a year with a British defending champion, is *unthinkable.*"

Stuart Courtney, the SRA chief executive, who claimed on Tuesday that sponsors were now more attuned to funding events in the second half of the year, said yesterday that the SRA would welcome any contribution from Corby.

"But we are a bit puzzled by this approach from one of our own vice-presidents who did not attend the board meeting that agonised over this matter earlier this week," Courtney said. "We were given to understand that the Corby Group was not prepared to underwrite *the event for a second year.*"

Corby agreed yesterday that he was not interested in taking on a full £100,000 commitment. "But that is not to say the British Open should just be abandoned," he said.

"It is certainly within my *feeling for this great game* to mount the main men's and women's championships with full fields of 32, in the existing March 17-24 dates, with finals at Lambs Club and a prize fund at least good enough to allow the world's players to keep the event in their scheduled tour arrangements."

TELEVISION CHOICE

# Not quite Mary Poppins

**Norland Nannies**
*Channel 4, 8.00pm*

Last week in this series we met Shanta Gilliot, training to be a nanny with the exclusive Norland organisation and already questioning whether she was cut out for the job. Among her charges are Harry and Sammy, whose parents have departed for a fortnight's holiday in St Lucia. Sammy has already spent her first birthday at Norland and is about to spend her second likewise. Shanta thinks the parents should have been with her. But like the true professional Norland is training her to be, she says nothing and gets on with the job of being substitute mum to two young and homesick children. Nannies can be homesick as well. *Dawn* Codman, another trainee, is away from her family for the first time, finds the course tough going and misses a shoulder to cry on.

**Meet the Ancestors**
*BBC2, 9.00pm*

We are in rural Dorset for the latest exercise in archaeological detection as strange crop marks in a neighbour's field alert Martin Green, a farmer, to a grave containing four sets of human remains. With the help of experts from universities up and down the land, the probable story is gradually pieced together and once more those of us who are anything but experts can only marvel about how *much can be deduced from apparently so little.* The remains are of a woman of around 30 and three children, though only one is definitely hers. They are more than 5,000 years old, placing them firmly in neolithic times, and it seems that the woman and her daughter originally came from the Mendips 50 miles away. The poignantly early deaths of the quartet may have a dark explanation: a ritual sacrifice?

**Jude**
*BBC1, 9.30pm*

We can argue whether this is a film or a television drama, though the distinction is becoming increasingly blurred. Although BBC money helped to make *Jude* it was shown first in the cinema. But the subject is intimate enough for the small screen and Michael Winterbottom's direction eschews cinematic flourish. A novel sombre even for the Thomas Hardy canon is rendered in low-key photography with mournful snowscapes and bleak interiors. Hossein Amini's screenplay is a serviceable distillation, though it cannot capture the fierce intensity of Hardy's prose, and the narrative proceeds matter-of-factly instead being driven by Hardyesque fate. But the actors do much to compensate. Christopher Eccleston's Jude is a thoughtful study of a *man* buffeted by circumstance and Kate Winslet effectively captures the mercurial Sue Bridehead.

Kate Winslet and Christopher Eccleston in Thomas Hardy's *Jude* (BBC1, 9.30pm)

**Fat Files**
*BBC2, 9.30pm*

A round-up of the *latest research* suggests that there is much more to eating disorders than the desire to be thin. Instead of seeing anorexia and bulimia *as culturally driven,* scientists are looking to possible genetic factors. They are examining whether changes in brain chemistry account for the compulsive personality disorders so often found in sufferers. The experts are convinced that there is a biological explanation for not taking food, or binging on food and then purging by being sick. Treatment is at a tentative stage, as we discover in the cases of Rachel, a 19-year-old anorexic, and Hilary, 22, who is bulimic. But the need to understand the conditions is urgent because they have the highest death rate of any mental illness. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

**The Future of Radio**
*Radio 4, 11.30pm*

If the future of radio features programmes such as this, in which people are interviewed but not (until the end) identified, count me out. It was made by Piers Plowright for last year's Royal Academy festival. The aural quality is terrific, with trawls along the dial, past and present, offering a compact sound picture of radio's vibrant variety. But why is the listening audience left strugling to work out who is saying what? Sir Peter Hall and Maureen Lipman are easily identified but how many listeners will recognise, for example, the voice of Matthew Bannister, until recently the BBC's Director of Radio? Hall's advice to radio executives is sound: "Make sure you are not absolutely obsessed by what you think the audience wants." Quite.

**Afternoon Play: A *Slight Tilt to the Left***
*Radio 4, 2.15pm*

This one-man play is written and performed by Michael Mears and launches a most absorbing flight of the writer's imagination from the most banal of events: the family of a man with an obsession for sport find him a burial place near a racecourse. The man's younger son, Lenny, whose own obsession is having things just so, notices that there is something not quite right about the headstone: it is tilting slightly to the left. What happens when Lenny (Mears) tells his older brother Matthew about the tilt is the subject of the play and it leads us into unexpected and previously unexplored corners of Lenny's family life. Mears has won two Edinburgh Festival awards for *one-man* plays but this is his first for radio. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

**6.30am** Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Clive Warren **8.00** The Evening Session **10.00** Trade Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00am** Andy Kershaw **2.00** Emma B **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

**6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** David Allan **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Comedy Classics (5/6) **9.30** Comedy Showcase: The Pig's Back. Jim Eldridge's radio comedy, with special guest Alan Freeman (2/6) **10.00** Melly Talks Jazz. *New series, with special guest Ian Dury (1/6)* **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

**5.00am** Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co. **4.00** Drive. The day's news and sports action **7.00** News Extra. News round-up with David McNeil **7.30** Hardest Game. Harry Carpenter reflects on boxing from the 1950s to the present day **8.00** Inside Edge **9.00** Hoops. British basketball **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

VIRGIN

**6.30am** Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen.

TALK RADIO

**6.00am** Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** *Peter Deeley's Drivetime* **5.00** *The Sports Zone* **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

**5.00am** The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** From Our Own Correspondent **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** The Works **9.00** World News **9.05** Network **9.20** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Performance **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Assignment **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** *Newshour* **2.00** *World News* **2.05** *The Works* **2.30** Meridian Books **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** The Good Relationship Guide **4.45** The Lab **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** *Assignment* **7.00** World News **7.05** The Works **7.30** From Our Own Correspondent **7.45** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** The Good Relationship Guide **10.45** The Lab **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** The Works **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Performance **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Focus on Faith **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** *Insight* **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

**6.00am** Easier Breakfast **8.00** Henry Kelly **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests **2.00** Concerto. CPE Bach: Flute Concerto in A major **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.30** Newsnight **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **9.00** Evening Concert. Khachaturian: Spartacus Suite. Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D flat. Ippolitov-Ivanov: *Symphony No 1 in E minor. Tcherepnin: Piano Concerto No 5* **11.00** Mann at Night. A chance to wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. CPE Bach: Flute Concerto in *A major (r)* **3.00** Mark Griffiths: *The Early Breakfast Show*

RADIO 3

**6.00am On Air** Petroc Trelawny presents: Boccherini (Symphony in D minor, Op 12 No 4); Debussy (Petite suite); Mozart and Janacek
**9.00 Masterworks** With Peter Hobday. Dvorak (Scherzo capriccioso) Chopin (Polonaise in A flat, *Op 53*); *Delius (A Song of Summer); Elgar* (Symphony No 2 in E flat)
**10.30 Artist of the Week:** Joan Bakewell
**11.00 Sound Stories:** the legend of Ondine, a water spirit with sea-green eyes and a pure white skin who can never be caught
**12.00pm Composer of the Week: Purcell**
**1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Haydn string quartets recorded at the Royal Northern College of Music. Includes Haydn (String Quartets: in D, Op 64 No 5) (E flat, Op 33 No 2) (D, Op 71 No 2)
**2.00** ***The BBC Orchestras*** BBC *National* Orchestra of Wales under Paul Murphy; *Masahiko* Enkoji and David Atherton; Pascal Roge, piano, Judith Howarth, soprano, Neal Davies, bass, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, BBC National Chorus of Wales
**4.00 Ensemble** A recital by violinist Isabelle Faust. Includes Mendelssohn (Violin Sonata in F). Prokofiev (Violin Sonata No 1, Op 80)
**4.45 Music Machine** with Verity Sharp (r)
**5.00 In Tune** With Sean Rafferty
**7.30 Performance on 3** BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Litton. Includes Dan Welcher (Bright Wings) Gershwin (Piano Concerto in F). Stravinsky (Petrushka)
**9.10** ***Postscript*** *Monet*
**9.35 A Breath of French Air** The trio by Poulenc and a trio by (r)
**10.00 Music Restored** Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of music from Spain
**10.45 Night Waves** Paul Allen explores a many-layered story of philosophy and feeling with Jonathan Ree, *author of I See a Voice*
**11.30 Jazz Notes** Alyn Shipton talks to veteran swing guitarist and Fats Waller sideman *Al Casey*
**12.00 Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov** (r)
**1.00** ***Through the Night*** *With Donald Macleod.* Academy of Ancient Music/Marcus Creed. Sussmayr ( Overture in C); Mozart (Incidental music "Thamos"); Mozart (Symphony No 38 in D, K504) **2.15** Strauss (Suite "Der Rosenkavalier". Sydney SO/Stuart Challender). **3.00-5.00** Schools **5.00** Arnold (Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo. Edmonton Wind Ensemble). **5.20** Brahms *(Violin* Sonata No 1 in G, Op 78). Andrea Pecolo, Elena Braslavsky (piano)

RADIO 4

**5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast**
**5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45** ***Prayer for the Day***
**5.47 Farming Today** Rural issues, with Charlotte Smith
**6.00 Today** Presented by John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor, including Thought for the Day
**8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament**
**9.00 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg**
**9.30 Transplantations** Carla Carlisle talks to Anna Pavord about her little corner of England that is forever Mississippi (2/5) (r)
**9.45 (FM) Serial: Iris** Oliver Ford Davies reads John Bayley's memoir of his wife Iris Murdoch. Part four
**9.45 (LW)** ***Daily Service With Christopher Stokes***
**10.00 Woman's Hour** Jenni Murray presents. Drama: Part nine of Lady Susan, by Jane Austen
**11.00 From Our Own Correspondent** Reports from BBC correspondents worldwide
**11.30 Old Dog and the Partridge** Mrs Drumond has an admirer and Nicola searches for the perfect birthday present. Michael Williams and Lisa Coleman star in Joe Turner's sitcom (4/6)
**12.00pm (FM) News**
**12.00 (LW)** ***News Headlines; Shipping Forecast***
**12.04 You and Yours** Consumer news and investigations with Liz Barclay and John Waite
**1.00 The World at One** With Nick Clarke
**1.30 Hidden Treasures** Lars Tharp presents the antiques quiz from Blickling Hall in Norfolk. With Peter Brown, Julia Poole, Geoffrey Munn and Jolyon Hudson
**2.00 The Archers** Another chance to hear yesterday's edition (r)
**2.15 Afternoon Play: A Slight Tilt to the Left** See Choice
**3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444** Peter White presents the consumer justice programme
**3.30** ***The Vale*** *Tony Robinson charts the preparations* for the grand opening of the visitors' centre (r)
**3.45 This Sceptred Isle** Anna Massey narrates part 14 *of the history of Britain. Anarchy (r)*
**4.00 Law in Action** New series. Do the rules of war count for anything in the heat of battle? Legal programme, presented by Marcel Berlins
**4.30 The Material World** Trevor Phillips assesses the likelihood of man's exploiting the planet's vast mineral resources — buried deep inside the Earth
**5.00 PM** With Clare *English and Eddie Mair*
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 Yes, Minister** Jim is re-elected and risks breaking a record. Starring Paul Eddington and Nigel Hawthorne. Open Government (r)
**7.00 The Archers**
**7.15 Front Row** presented by Francine Stock
**7.45 Lady Susan** Lavinia Murray's adaptation of Jane Austen's story. With Harriet Walter and Maggie Steed. Broadcast earlier within Woman's Hour (r)
**8.00 Case History** The political performances of President Hindenburg and Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald during Hitler's rise to power (r)
**8.30 The Week in Westminster** With Boris Johnson
**9.00** ***Testbeds*** Vanessa Collingridge explores how technology will affect the future
**9.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg** Ideas and events influencing the age. *Broadcast earlier*
**10.00 The World Tonight** With Robin Lustig
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana** Part 14 of Emile Zola's novel, read by Juliet Stevenson
**11.00 Late Night on 4: World of Pub** (3/4)
**11.30 (FM) Experimental Feature: FOR — The Future of Radio** See Choice. Pop stars and pundits *consider* what lies in store for the medium. With contributions by Douglas Adams, Chris Evans, Peter Hall, Maureen Lipman and Jo Whiley
**11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 12.00am News**
**12.30 The Late Book: Last Resort**
**12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service**

**FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1.** FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693; 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
***Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.***

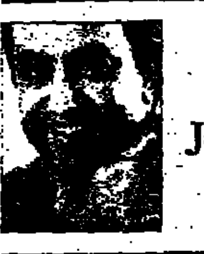
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# Novel approach to the doorstep challenge

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

When the narrator mentioned early on in last night's **Mersey Blues** (BBC2) that Liverpool gangsters carry firearms so *routinely* that "over a two-year period, the Merseyside police investigated more than 300 cases *connected with the illegal use of guns*", it made you wonder just how many *legal* uses of pump-*action shotguns* and hand pistols in Liverpool's city centre the police had endorsed.

*It reminded* me of Erma Bombeck's reaction to reading a psychologist's advice to "never *strike a child in anger*": this, left Bombeck struggling to work out "when could I strike him? When he is kissing me on my birthday?"

It is now also routine for any incident in Liverpool's clubland to be attended by at least one armed police unit, carrying Heckler & Koch *sub-machineguns*. So, as far as you can tell from this series, if you've spent a day in Liverpool without seeing someone pull a gun, you've probably been at home asleep all day. Even then, there's no knowing when someone in a uniform won't come through your door like a *hurricane*. Bobbies in Liverpool never ring the bell if they can smash down a door with their battering rams.

This week we weren't chasing drugs so much as the guns that gangsters use to *arbitrate their* drug-related turf wars. It was a special police operation code-named "Vixen" (*who knows?*).

Detective Inspector Gary Watson's problem is that Operation Vixen is supposed to be running for three months. But with six weeks *still* to go, he's already £800 over budget. All those costly surveillance operations *are going to have to be* cancelled; and all those violent mobsters will be free to roam without fear of police interference. But *Mersey Blues* is such compulsive viewing that it would be a shame to strangle such gripping television for the sake of a few pounds. The neatest solution — which would keep the Merseyside police in funds and prolong our entertainment — would be my own newly copyrighted "Surveillance TV".

Surveillance TV will be a channel devoted to live *police stakeouts*, enabling us to feel that we are watching — *actually as it happens* — the centuries-old tradition of *criminals* wriggling free from justice.

Funding? There are several possibilities. The first would be telephone pledges, as with Comic *Relief* or the BBC's Children In Need Telethon: as official funds dwindled Terry Wogan or Stephen Fry would *appear in the upper* right-hand corner of our TV screens to remind us of the *telephone hotline number where* stars from *The Sweeney* and *The Bill* were waiting to take down our credit card details and process our pledges to pay the overtime bill needed to keep that night's live surveillance team at their posts.

A second method would be the one pioneered by *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* under which members of the public would telephone a premium line number *for the chance to sit in the police* car along with members of Watson's team: a percentage of the 60p-a-minute takings would be used to fund the stakeout.

Supplementing these two schemes, there is the sponsorship opportunity of attaching company names to the special police operations. So instead of Operation Yokel, as we had last week, or this week's Operation Vixen, we could have instead Operation Panadol, or Operation *Persil Automatic*.

Employing novel tactics against the enemy certainly paid off for Ben Cohen and *Jerry Greenfield*, a couple of podgy, bearded hippies who set up Ben and Jerry's ice-cream in their home town of Burlington, Vermont, after sending off $5 for a correspondence course in ice-cream making. It turned out to be a great summer. *Then, as we saw in Ice-Cream Wars*, Simon Dickson's slickly entertaining film for **Blood on the Carpet** (BBC2), *the winter snows* came and people stopped buying so much ice-cream.

So Ben and Jerry — who only looked as though they had *slept in their clothes* on account of the fact that they often had — tried to sell to supermarkets via wholesale distributors. This upset Häagen-Dazs — part of the Pillsbury food empire, including Burger King and Green Giant — which told its distributors to choose: us or them. In a cute visual joke, Dickson showed a convoy of Häagen-Dazs lorries hitting the road, with the sort of background music you hear in Coppola movies when members of the established Mafia family are heading off in their black limos to deal with some cheap new hoods.

So Ben and Jerry did what *nobody had ever dared to do* before. they demonised the Pillsbury Doughboy. They portrayed the Doughboy as the criminal mastermind behind a conspiracy to drive their business *into the ground*. There were T-shirts, badges, posters on buses, all asking the same question: "*What's the Doughboy afraid of?*" They even hired a lawyer, whom they chose because he met the key *legal* criterion of wearing shoes that were falling apart. Pillsbury felt crippled by the publicity. Worse, Pillsbury had turned a teeny company, that nobody outside Vermont had even heard of, into a big noise in the ice-cream world.

The biggest noise in *Fish Tales*, Neil Grant's gor-blimey-guv-fings-ain't-wot-they-used-to-be film for **Inside Story** (BBC1), came from the mouth of Billingsgate fish trader Roger Barton. It was a mouth big enough to accommodate Jonah. Roger insisted that *fish was "better than perfume, the finest smell in the world!"* But maybe just that little bit trickier to dab behind the ears, eh Roger?

## BBC1

**6.00am Business Breakfast** (25266)
**7.00 BBC Breakfast News** (T) (47315)
**9.00 Kilroy** (T) (8405841)
**9.45 The Vanessa Show** (T) (5878711)
**10.55 News;** Regional News; Weather (T) (7744605)
**11.00 Real Rooms** (7754082)
**11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (T) (7724841)
**11.55 News;** Regional News; Weather (T) (1957537)
**12.00pm Call My Bluff** (32334)
**12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home** (67518)
**1.00 One O'Clock News;** Weather (T) (40402)
**1.30 Regional News;** Weather (68438841)
**1.40 Neighbours** Alex offers Sarah a sympathetic ear (T) (65125957)
**2.05 Ironside** *A murder occurs at the theatre* while Ironside and two people with strong motives are present (r) (7401131)
**2.55 Going for a Song** (8303686)
**3.20 The Weather Show** Stories and reports (T) (2734537)
**3.25 Children's BBC:** Playdays (6825006) **3.45** The All New Popeye Show (9829537) **3.50** Pocket Dragon Adventures (8245599) **4.05** Rugrats (6766860) **4.20** Home Farm Twins (6787353) **4.35** Short Change (1460773) **5.00** Newsround (5207402) **5.10** See *How They Run* (6347957)
**5.33 Rewind** (T) (864624)
**5.35 Neighbours** Alex offers Sarah a *sympathetic ear* (r) (T) (243841)
**6.00 Six O'Clock News;** Weather (T) (421)
**6.30 Regional News Magazine** (773)
**7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson** Consumer investigation show, putting some of the biggest names on the high street under the spotlight (T) (6470)
**7.30 EastEnders** Beppe makes a *life-changing decision* (T) (957)



**Trude Mostue tends to another of her canine patients (8pm)**

**8.00 *Vets in Practice*** *Keith Leonard performs* a blood transfusion on a cow and Trude Mostue treats an *itchy* pooch (T) (6518)
**8.30 Fat Free** Tracey's confidence increases after losing two stone — taking up exercise is *next on her agenda* — and Sean's fiancée bears the brunt of his ever-changing moods (3/6) (T) (8353)
**9.00 Nine O'Clock News;** Regional News; Weather (T) (9709)
**9.30** CHOICE **Jude** Drama based on the Thomas Hardy tale, with Kate Winslet, Christopher Eccleston and Liam *Cunningham* (T) (16247)
**11.30 Question Time** From Leeds (T) (684624)
**12.35am Murder So Sweet (1993)** A woman becomes convinced her ex-husband is responsible for the death of his latest wife. *Mystery thriller*, starring Harry Hamlin and Helen Shaver. Directed by Larry Peerce (T) (7505880)
**2.00 Weather** (9364990)
**2.05 BBC News 24** (74119648)

## BBC2

**7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show:** Open a Door (4895119) **7.05** Teletubbies (2770976) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (3659808) **7.55** *Blue Peter* (2068150) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9603228) **8.40** Polka *Dot* Shorts (8975711) ***8.50*** Fiddley Foodle Bird (8971995) **9.00** Job Bank (7808266) **9.10** Belief File (6217131) **9.30** Watch (8080063) **9.45** Come Outside (8085518) **10.00** Teletubbies (34353) **10.30** *Storytime* (5644402) **10.45** The Experimenter (3959537) **11.05** Space Ark (9422247) **11.15** Zig Zag (1294421) **11.35** Lifeschool (5431131) **12.00pm** Job Bank (9112082) **12.10** English File (4703773) **12.30** Working Lunch (58860) **1.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (73416686)
**1.10 The Antiques Show** (T) (82305150)
**1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show** (65139150)
**2.10 Indoor Bowls: World Championship** *Round two draws to a close* (22952624)
**2.40 News;** Weather (T) (8795889)
**2.45 Westminster** (T) (4172678)
**3.25 News;** Weather (T) (2724150)
**3.30 Indoor Bowls: World Championship** Round two draws to a close (75402)
***5.00 Tennis: Australian Open*** *The key action* from the fourth day (1781)
**6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation** The *Enterprise* is lured into a trap by a fake distress signal (r) (T) (939044)
**6.45 The Outer Limits** *A deaf woman hears* for the first time (r) (T) (795957)
**7.30 Regional Programmes** (T) (599)
***8.00 The Travel Show*** *Juliet Morris visits* Cumbria's Eden Valley (T) (7880)
**8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines** American F15 and drag racing on snowmobiles (3/6) (r) (T) (6995)



**One of the shafts discovered at a 5,000-year-old site in Dorset (9pm)**

**9.00** CHOICE **Meet the Ancestors** Julian Richards traces the story of three 5,000-year-old skeletons found in a Stone Age temple in Dorset (T) (1421)
**9.30** CHOICE **Fat Files: A Horizon Trilogy** Research conducted into eating disorders (3/3) (T) (950889)
**10.20 Meetings with Remarkable Trees** An inspirational willow (r) (T) (136204)
**10.28 Whitbread Shorts** (T) (385228)
**10.30 Newsnight** (T) (985995)
**11.15 Late Review** Margaret Cook's explosive *new book* (699763)
**11.55 Skiing Forecast** (292247)
**12.00am Despatch Box** Political news, with Steve Richards (84087)
**12.30 BBC Learning Zone:** Hotel Hilbert **1.00** The 1997 Election: *Traditions*, Failures and Futures **1.30** Rousseau in Africa: Democracy in the Making **2.00** Further Education: Communication and Media **4.00** Creative Arts: Talent 2000 **5.00** *Teacher Training*: Working Together **5.30** Go Higher 2: Getting Into Higher Education **5.45** Open University: Questions of National Identity **6.35** Designer Rides: The Jerk and the Jounce

## HTV

**5.30am ITN Morning News** (38228)
**6.00 GMTV** (6537266)
**9.25 Trisha** (T) (3301537)
**10.30 This Morning** (T) (24978247)
**12.15pm HTV News** (T) (9195315)
**12.30 ITN Lunchtime News;** Weather (T) (52686)
**1.00 Shortland Street** Jenny buries the hatchet (35570)
**1.30 Snooker: Nations Cup** *Live coverage of* the match between Wales and Northern Ireland (T) (55204179)
**3.15 ITN News Headlines** (T) (2722792)
**3.20 HTV News** (T) (2729605)
**3.25 CITV:** *Mopatop's Shop* (2719228) **3.35** The Adventures of Dawdle (8251150) **3.45** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (8248686) **4.00** Lavender Castle (6769957) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (4439060) ***4.40*** *The Worst Witch* (7845063)
**5.10 A Country Practice** Kate gets a reminder of the past (1252614)
**5.36 HTV Crimestoppers** (858063)
**5.40 ITN Early Evening News;** Weather (T) (881150)
**6.00 Home and Away** Vinnie helps Sally with an assignment (T) (123889)
***6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight*** (T) (658792)
**6.25 WEST: HTV Weather** (462315)
**6.30 WEST: The West Tonight** (T) (841)
**7.00 Emmerdale** *Graham moves in with* Rachel (T) (5266)
**7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out** Judy Finnigan and the team investigate more consumer complaints (353)
**7.30 WALES: Forgotten Treasures** New series. Classic programmes from HTV's archives (353)
***8.00 The Bill*** WDC Holmes *goes undercover* as an inmate in a women's prison Starring Joy Brook (T) (3995)



**The customs team are closing in on the international smugglers (9pm)**

***9.00 The Knock*** Greg Taylor goes *into hiding* and arranges one last cocaine shipment to pay for the bomb being constructed in South Africa (3/6) (T) (3131)
**10.00 News at Ten;** Weather (T) (28131)
**10.30 HTV News and Weather** (T) (268860)
**10.40 Thursday Night Live** Hard-hitting debate (1763088)
**12.10am Snooker: Nations Cup** *Highlights of* Wales v Northern Ireland (5584822)
**1.15 The Jerry Springer Show** Outrageous talk show (T) (5990193)
**1.55 T in the Park** New series. Highlights of the biggest *annual music festival*, featuring performances by Robbie Williams and Natalie Imbruglia (6144648)
**2.50 Box Office America** Top 10 US movie releases (7665648)
**3.20 Cybernet** Computer news (93099731)
**3.50 Murder, She Wrote** A journalist is bumped off in the swamps of New Orleans (r) (1476396)
**4.40 ITV Nightscreen** Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (8894445)

## CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
**12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather** (6711063)
**1.00-1.30 Echo Point** (35570)
**3.20-3.25 Central News** (2729605)
**5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (1252614)
**6.25-6.55 Central News; Weather** (131808)
**6.55-7.00 Lifeline** (264995)
**10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather** (268860)
**2.00am Pirate TV** (47700)
**2.30 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol** (6687629)
**2.50-3.15 Pop Down the Pub** (7674396)
**3.40 Potty About Pets** (14022532)
**4.10 Central Jobfinder '99** (8910735)
***5.20-5.30 Asian Eye*** (4055629)

## [illegible]

As HTV West except:
**12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather** (9195315)
**12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (6729082)
**1.00-1.30 Emmerdale** (35570)
**3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather** (2729605)
**5.08 Birthday People** (6326112)
**5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (1252614)
**6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (60605)
**10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather** (268860)

## [illegible]

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (9195315) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (1252614) **6.00 Meridian *Tonight*** *(T) (889)* ***6.30-7.00 Getaways*** (3/10) (841) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (268860) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (79716)

## [illegible]

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (6790570) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (6711063) **1.00-1.30 Save Your Bacon** (5/6) (r) (35570) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (1252614) **6.23 Anglia Weather** (463044) ***6.25-7.00 Anglia News*** *(T) (658792)* **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (305082) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (268860)

## [illegible]

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (45765112) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47735266) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Medieval Realms (16396112) **9.30 Geographical Eye** (89349686) **9.40 English Programme** (80407773) **10.00 Middle English** (98003570) **10.20 Fourways Farm** (71508353) ***10.30 Scientific Eye*** (17099605) **10.50 What the Papers Said** (93772773) **11.00 The Number Crew** (53417518) **11.10 The German Programme** (35323112) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (24684421) **12.00pm *Bewitched*** *(T) (16316976)* **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38301150) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (47738353) **1.30 *FILM: Untamed*** (T) (99768131) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56098957) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (56000792) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (56006976) **5.00 Planed Plant** (98537286) **5.30 *Countdown*** *(T) (56097228)* ***6.00 Newyddion 6*** (T) (69976518) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95678315) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (12937042) ***7.30 Newyddion*** (T) (56007605) **8.00 Penblwydd Hapus** (T) (75709150) **8.30 Pam Fi Duw?** (T) (17987547) ***9.00 I dot*** *(86320660)* ***10.00 Father Ted*** (r) (T) (16317605) **10.30 Friends** (r) (T) (81659044) **11.05 King of the Hill** *(T) (92866583)* **11.35 Whose Line is it Anyway?** (T) (69573082) **12.05am Bob and Margaret** (T) (57937803) **12.35 Dispatches** (T) (66560358) **1.05 The Real General Pinochet** (T) (71919025) **2.05 Diwedd**

## CHANNEL 4

**5.25am Pink Panther** (5844421)
**5.45 Magic Roundabout** (7691599)
**5.50 Animal Alphabet** (7681112)
**5.55 Sesame Street** (r) (4527624)
**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (63353)
**9.00 Schools: History in Action** (6213315) ***9.20*** *Geographical Eye Over Britain 1* (6233179) **9.40** The English Programme (7039266) **10.00** Middle English (6001247) **10.20** Fourways Farm (4536179) **10.30** Scientific Eye (3954082) **10.50** What the Papers Said (2466315) **11.00** Number Crew (9418044) **11.10** *Channel Hopping Auf Deutsch* (1297518)
**11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (7082)
**12.00pm Sesame Street** (T) (25044)
**12.30 Bewitched** (T) (50228)
**1.00 Pet Rescue** (r) (T) (33112)
**1.30 Australia Wild** (r) (T) (59599)
**2.00 The Raid (1954)** FILM Six Confederate soldiers escape from a Union prison and run riot in a small town. With Van Heflin, Anne Bancroft and Richard Boone. Directed by Hugo Fregonese (T) (70421)
**3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (247)
**4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (222)
**4.30 Countdown** (T) (1454112)
**4.55 Ricki Lake** Men propose to unsuspecting girlfriends (T) (4565570)
**5.30 Pet Rescue** A bird of prey is rescued (T) (518)
**6.00 Dishes** Dating show with a culinary *theme (T) (131)*
**6.30 Hollyoaks** OB gets a date (T) (711)
**7.00 Channel 4 News;** Weather (T) (418421)
**7.55 *Music of the Millennium*** With Sixties icon Marianne Faithfull (T) (368570)
**8.00** CHOICE **Norland Nannies** Dawn burns the candle at both ends to finish an essay (2/6) (T) (9228)



**A profile of Grace Kelly, the actress who became a Princess (8.30pm)**

**8.30 Grace Kelly** Profile of the Hollywood *golden girl Grace Kelly* (r) (T) (76585)
**9.30 Dispatches** Report following Finnish forensic scientists' struggle to uncover the truth about last year's civilian massacres in Kosovo (T) (63792)
***10.00 Rising Damp*** *Rigsby is challenged to a* 48-hour fast (r) (T) (26773)
**10.30 Whose Line is it Anyway?** Improvisational comedy show, hosted by Clive Anderson (T) (233044)
***11.05 Ally McBeal*** *Ally has a difficult first date* with a client (r) (T) (857773)
**12.00am 4 Later** Introduction; Oz (5586280)
**1.05 Vidz** Offbeat video *review* (3026919)
**1.40 Hell and Back** Animation (8929551)
**1.45 Getting Up and Going Home (TVM 1992)** FILM Premiere. A lawyer falls prey to the dreaded midlife crisis (T) (231754)
**3.25 *They Were Sisters* (1945)** FILM Melodrama following the vastly different married lives of three siblings. With *Phyllis* Calvert, James Mason and Dulcie Gray. Directed by Arthur Crabtree (390667)
**5.25 Right to Reply** (r) (T) (1583483)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00am 5 News and Sport** (7633421)
**7.00 WideWorld** Part 10. How human beings have affected the evolution of animals *and plants* (r, T) (9738624)
**7.30 Milkshake!** (8102437)
**7.35 Wimzie's House** (r). 5 News Update (9469537)
**8.00 Havakazoo** (r) (1809228)
**8.30 Dappledown Farm** (r); 5 *News Update* (1808599)
**9.00 Animal House** (r) (T) (1822179)
***9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show*** (6251773)
**10.20 Sunset Beach** Amy discovers the Rosano jewels are cursed (T) (2859421)
**11.10 Leeza** (r) (2746247)
**12.00pm 5 News at Noon** (T) (1802315)
**12.30 Family Affairs** Dave confesses his love for Holly (r) (T); 5 News Update (9678044)
**1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** Dylan is *excited* (T) (9737995)
**1.30 The Roseanne Show** the Canadian singer kd lang guests on the afternoon chat show; 5 News Update (9677315)
**2.00 100 Per Cent Gold** (6098315)
**2.30 Good Afternoon** (4297179)
**3.30 The Ultimate Imposter (TVM 1980)** FILM A super-powered special agent fights to *free a kidnapped Russian submarine* commander who wishes to defect to the West. Thriller, starring Joseph Hacker. Directed by Paul Stanley (9364570)
**5.20 Sunset Beach** Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 *News Update* (6820599)
**6.00 100 Per Cent** Computer-generated quiz (5959624)
**6.30 Family Affairs** Dave attempts to explain himself to Cat (T) (5940976)
**7.00 5 News;** Weather (T) (6092131)
**7.30 Wild Flight** New series, beginning with a close-up look at the industrious African *weaver bird, which derives its name from* the male's skill at building elaborate nests to attract a mate (T) (5939860)
**8.00 The Pepsi Chart** Live performances by 3 Colours Red, 911 and Juliet Roberts (6018179)
**8.30 Family Confidential** Children who drive their mothers crazy, including two brothers aged seven and eight known to neighbours as "the Kray twins", whose *violent disruptive behaviour even brought* their parents back from a belated honeymoon; 5 News Update (6097686)
**9.00 Mr and Mrs Loving (TVM 1993)** FILM A young couple are taken to court for *breaking local laws governing inter-racial* relationships in 1950s America, leading to a landmark decision which challenged the country's attitude to mixed-race relationships. Civil rights drama based on *a true story*, starring *Timothy* Hutton, Lela Rochon and Ruby Dee. Directed by Richard Friedenberg (T) (12049112)
**10.50 Sex and Shopping** Insight into Denmark's Eurotica satellite channel, and a report on film and video censorship in Britain (12/13) (3184082)
**11.30 The Jack Docherty Show** With Ed Byrne (1490044)
**12.10am Live and Dangerous** with Mark *Webster* (89320667)
**4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** Reb gets into drugs and Cass attempts to strangle Pixie (3765396)
**5.30 100 Per Cent** (r) (4057731)

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● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

### SKY ONE

**7.00am** Count Duckula (90421) **7.30** Chris Evans (77112) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (70518) **9.00** Sally (97995) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (75112) **11.00** Guilty! (95976) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (11353) **1.00** Mad About You (99792) **1.30** Jeopardy (29119) **2.00** Sally (53402) **3.00** Jenny Jones (19421) **4.00** Guilty! (97088) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (4179) **6.00** Married with Children (5773) **6.30** Dream Team (9353) **7.00** Simpsons (5808) **7.30** Simpsons (6537) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (1228) **8.30** World's Weirdest TV (3089) **9.00** Friends (94112) **9.30** ER (55641) **10.30** Veronica's Closet (84711) **11.00** Dream Team (47547) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (79082) **12.30am** Highlander (56884) **1.30** Long Play (5706396)

### SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 *(Transponder 28)*
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**The Wings of the Dove (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 *(Transponder 59)*
**The Borrowers (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 *(Transponder 58)*
**One Night Stand (1997)**

### FILMFOUR

**6.00pm Pickup on South Street (1953)** (7094315) **8.00 Quiz Show (1994)** (65218570) **10.15 The *Usual Suspects* (1995)** (2510570) **12.05am The Big Blue (1988)** (18155464) **2.50 *Riff-Raff* (1990)** (4208735) **4.30 The Fireman's Ball (1967)** (9417532) **6.00** Close

### SKY PREMIER

**6.00am Let Me Call You Sweetheart (1997)** (22889) **8.00 *Picture Perfect* (1996)** (75624) **10.00 Jitters (1997)** (79696) **12.00pm** The Directors (29173) **1.00** Femmes Fatales (13711) **2.00 Let Me Call You Sweetheart (1997)** (35857) ***4.00 Picture Perfect* (1996)** (3763) **6.00 Jitters (1997)** (72666) **8.00 Rossanna's Grave (1997)** (50266) **10.00 Sweet Nothing (1994)** (84421) **11.30 Lone Star (1996)** (21513063) **1.45am Destiny Turns on the Radio (1995)** (245622) **3.30 Defenceless (1991)** (459193)

### SKY MOVIEMAX

**5.35am American Hot Wax (1978)** (88487841) **7.10 UFOria (1980)** (11279421) **9.00 *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother* (1975)** (64518) **11.00 *Goddess of Love* (1988)** (22334) **1.00pm Little Bigfoot (1995)** (68334) **3.00 *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother* (1975)** (49570) **5.00 *Goddess of Love* (1988)** (80885) **7.00 Little Bigfoot (1995)** (46995) **8.30** E! News Week (8131) ***9.00 Any Place But Home* (1996)** (51995) **11.00 *House of Frankenstein: Part Two* (1997)** (207150) **12.40am Target Earth (1997)** (668483) ***2.15 Vampires in Venice* (1988)** (520254) **3.50 Patty Hearst (1988)** (770280)

### SKY CINEMA

**4.00pm The Racket (1951)** (8721228) ***6.00 Son of Paleface* (1952)** (7192841) ***8.00 Notorious* (1946)** (7104686) **10.00 Joshua Then and Now (1985)** (8949976) **12.00am The Boston Strangler (1968)** (8450445) **1.55 The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds (1972)** (3834882) **3.40 Road to Zanzibar (1941)** (77978532)

### TNT

**9.00pm The Tender Trap (1955)** (36524695) **11.15 Ada (1961)** (77242792) **1.30am Alfred the Great (1969)** (57804716) **3.30 The Alphabet Murders (1966)** (84606445) **5.00** Close

### SKY SPORTS 1

**7.00am** Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** You're On Sky Sports! **10.00** Watersports World **11.00** European Tour Golf Weekly **11.30** Live Golf: South African Open **2.30pm** Ringside **4.00** World Pool League **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** League Review **7.00** Futbol Mundial **7.30** Golf: South African Open **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **10.45** Trans World Sport **11.45** Sports Centre **12.00am** You're On Sky Sports! **12.30** Football League Review **1.00** Futbol Mundial **1.30** Trans World Sport **2.30** What a Weekend **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

### SKY SPORTS 2

**6.30am** World Windsurfing **7.00** Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Unbelievable Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** World Pool League **11.00** Cricket **1.00pm** Spanish Football **3.00** Cricket **5.00** Inside the PGA Tour **5.30** League Review **6.00** What A Weekend **6.30** The Rugby Club **7.30** Live Ice Hockey **10.00** *US Golf: Bob Hope Classic* **12.00am** The Rugby Club **1.00** Tight Lines **2.00** Ice Hockey **4.30** *Sports Centre* **4.45** Close

### SKY SPORTS 3

**12.00pm** Wrestling **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Nigel Mansell — IndyCar ***3.00*** *The Entertainers* **3.30** Watersports World **4.30** Sports Unlimited **5.30** Unbelievable Sports **6.00** Survival of the Fittest **6.30** Inside the PGA Tour **7.00** Tight Lines ***8.00*** *Cricket* **10.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **11.30** Close

### EUROSPORT

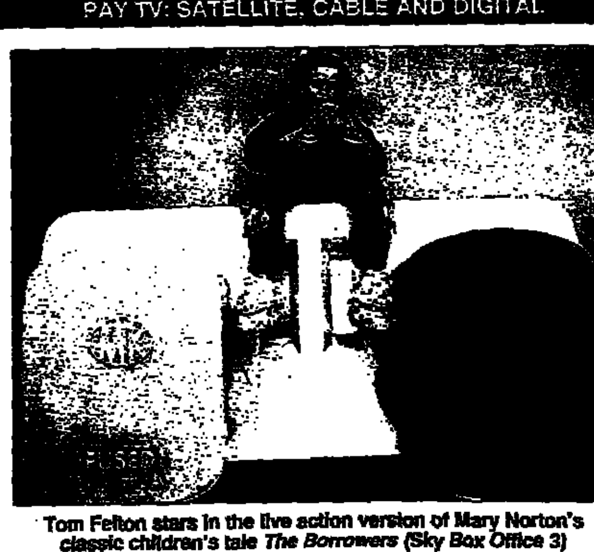
**7.30am** Rally **8.00** Live Tennis **10.00** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **11.00** Live Alpine Skiing **12.15pm** Tennis **7.00** Live Football **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Tennis **11.00** Car on Ice **11.30** Trial **12.30am** Close

### UK GOLD

**7.00am** Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** *EastEnders* **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** *Dallas* **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and *Small* **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Sports4 Children **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, *Minister* ***9.00*** *Fawlty Towers* **9.40** Fawlty Towers **10.25** Ivanhoe **11.30** The Bill **12.00am** The Bill **12.30** Backup **1.25 FILM: The Black Torment (1965)** **3.00** Shopping *with Screenshop*

### GRANADA PLUS

**6.00am** Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House ***8.00*** *That's* My Boy **8.30** Up the Garden Path **9.00** Classic Coronation Street ***9.30*** *Emmerdale* Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** *Classic Coronation Street* **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony ***2.00*** *thirtysomething* **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** *Hawaii Five-O* **6.00** *Emmerdale Farm* **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



**Tom Felton stars in the live action version of Mary Norton's classic children's tale *The Borrowers* (Sky Box Office 3)**

### DISNEY CHANNEL

**6.00am** Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** *Classic Toons* **6.35** *Gummi Bears* **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 *Dalmatians* ***8.00*** *Goof Troop* **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the *Pooh* ***9.00*** *Spot* ***9.05*** *Animal Shell* **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue *House* **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** Spot **12.05** *Animal Shell* **12.15** *Pocket Dragons* **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush *Family* **1.00** Bite Size **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** *Quack Pack* **2.30** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** *Art Attack* **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey, I *Shrunk the Kids:* The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00 FILM: Ernest Goes to Africa (1997)** **9.30** *Home Improvement* **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman **12.00am** Close

### NICKELODEON

**6.00am** Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's *Modern Life* **7.00** *CatDog* **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus ***11.30*** *PB Bear etc* **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** *Little Bear Stories* **2.00** *Clangers etc* **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Pippi Longstocking ***4.00*** *Hey Arnold!* **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina ***6.30*** *Driven Crazy* **7.00** Close

### FOX KIDS NETWORK

**6.00am** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** EekIStravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** *Spiderman* **2.15** *X-Men* **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Ray and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** EekIStravaganza **7.00** Close

### TROUBLE

**7.30am** City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempest **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Sugar's Real Life Stories **6.45** Bangs **7.00** USA High

### BRAVO

**8.00pm** The A-Team **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Series **11.00 FILM: The Panic in Needle Park (1971)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.30** Scary Sex **2.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.30** Cops **3.00 FILM: Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise (1987)** **5.00** L.A.P.D. **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

### PARAMOUNT COMEDY

***7.00pm*** *Clueless* **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** News Radio **9.00** *Cybill* ***9.30*** *Vic Reeves Big Night Out* **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** *The Larry Sanders Show* **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** *The Critic* **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Wings **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

### THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

*SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY*

**7.30am** Bloomberg Information Television **6.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Mercy Point **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Lord of Illusions (1995)** **12.00am** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **1.00 FILM: Halloween III: Season of the Witch (1983)** **2.55** Sci-Focus **3.00** Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

### HOME & LEISURE

**6.00am** Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Garden Rescue **10.00** Bloom **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country. Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **12.30** Doing It Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** Wood Wizard **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

### DISCOVERY

***4.00pm*** *Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures* **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Flightline **5.30** *History's Turning Points* **6.00** *Animal Doctor* **6.30** Tortoise and Turtle **7.30** Beyond 2000 ***8.00*** *Discover Magazine* **9.00** World Coloured Blue **10.00** Nova **11.00** Forensic *Detectives* **12.00am** *Skyscraper at Sea* **1.00** History's Turning Points **1.30** Flightline ***2.00*** *Close*

### ANIMAL PLANET

**12.00pm** Horse Tales **12.30** Going Wild **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** Wildlife ER **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of *Black Beauty* **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World: Australia Part Three — Tasmania **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Klondike & Snow **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Deadly Australians **10.30** The Big Animal Show **11.00** Wild Rescues **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**7.00pm** Fishers in the Sky **7.30** Nile, Above the Falls **8.00** Royal Blood **9.00** Extreme Earth: In the Shadow of Vesuvius **10.00** African Diary: Zebra — Patterns in the Grass **11.00** On the Edge: Deep into the Labyrinth **11.30** On the Edge: Yukonna **12.00am** Icebound: Arctic Journey

### HISTORY

**4.00pm** The World at War: It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow **5.00** Four Years of Thunder: Bloody April — 1917-1918 **6.00** Lost *Civilizations: Rome — The Ultimate Empire* **7.00** Story of the Gun: Wild Frontiers

### CARLTON FOOD

***9.00am*** *Food Network Daily* ***9.30*** *Food for Thought* **10.00** Who's Cooking Dinner? **10.30** *Worrall Thompson Cooks* **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** For Better, For Worse **1.00** Food for *Thought* **1.30** *The Green Gourmet* **2.00** Tessa Bramley's Country Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Retrospectives **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** From *the Ground Up* **4.30** Caribbean Light **5.00** Close

### LIVING

***6.00am*** *Tiny and Crew* ***6.20*** *Philbert the* Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny *Tales* **6.50** *Polka Dot Shorts* ***7.00*** *Practical* Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** *Bug Alert* **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** *Tiny Tales* **8.35** *Tiny and Crew* **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Diet Show **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call **9.00 FILM: Lifeline (1995)** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

### ZEE TV

**5.00am** Char Raasta **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Hero Kal Aaj Au **6.30** Awaaz Nayee An **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Karoban Duniya **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Zanjeeren **9.30** Zee Health Show **10.00** Haweein **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Tamil Movie: TheKath, Kalan** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Public Demand **4.00** Campus **4.30** Fairdeal Antakshari **5.30** Daraar **6.00** Top of the Pops **6.30** Hip Hip Hurray **7.00** Gudgudee **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **9.00** Himalaya's Hasratein **12.00am** News **12.30** Zee Business Show **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Rashat **2.00 FILM: Khuda Kasam** **4.30** An Hour With

★★★ Worth buying

**OLYMPICS 50**
Emperor Samaranch surveys the mess at Salt Lake City

# SPORT

**GOLF 47**
In-form Els aims to capture fourth South African Open title





Striker sparks rift with Villa

# Collymore's outburst clouds future

By Russell Kempson

STAN COLLYMORE was at it again yesterday, talking out of turn, speaking his mind and not caring who heard. The Aston Villa forward, one of football's most enigmatic and controversial figures, could contain himself no longer over what he perceived as the unfairness of his partial exclusion from Villa's FA Carling Premiership title challenge.

Collymore's rant came as no surprise. He is predictable only in his unpredictability and few of his previous managers — at Crystal Palace, Southend United, Nottingham Forest or Liverpool — have been able to unravel the complexities that lie within him.

It is his timing, though, that is perhaps unfortunate. With Dion Dublin injured, Collymore was more than likely to be recalled for the FA Cup fourth-round tie against Fulham at Villa Park on Saturday. When John Gregory, the Villa manager, absorbs the latest outburst, though, he may prefer Paul Merson as a partner for Julian Joachim.

Collymore's ire emanates from the fact that he has started only one of Villa's past seven Premiership matches. He is fit, having recovered from an early-season Achilles tendon problem, and available. Yet Gregory has declined to pick him.

"Being overlooked week in, week out, it is becoming more and more obvious that I'm a peripheral figure," Collymore said. "I've never been that in my career and I've never let the club down when I've played. If anything, I've come on and changed games for them.

"I feel I'm playing well enough to warrant a place, but this situation cannot go on for ever. At 27, I want to play regular first-team football. Where I go from here I just don't know, but if it continues, I'll have to look at it closely."

Gregory might be happy to rid himself of a player whose influence in the dressing-room is said to range from unsettling to disruptive and would have no fears about releasing him. It was Brian Little, Gregory's predecessor, who signed Collymore for £7 million from Liverpool in May 1997 and, consequently, felt obliged to select him, even when he playing poorly or offering his views too freely. Gregory does not carry such baggage and would readily sell him for as little as £4 million, presuming he could find a British buyer.

A more likely resolution could arrive in the summer and involve a swap deal with Juninho, the Atlético Madrid and former Middlesbrough midfield player. Juninho is in a similar position to Collymore, with Arrigo Sacchi, the Atlético coach, using him only sparingly.

Villa were linked with Juninho last week. Gianni Paladin, who advises the Brazilian, said that his client admired Villa's style and the progress they had made since Gregory took over 11 months ago. Villa are believed to have made preliminary contact with Atlético to establish Juninho's availability. Intriguingly, Collymore's name was understood to have been on the list of replacements when Atlético sold Christian Vieri to Lazio for £18 million last summer.

Nothing can be done until the end of the season, the "transfer window" in the Spanish league having closed on January 15. Collymore, who is 28 tomorrow, must therefore sit and stew and hope that Gregory invites him for tea and sympathy.

"The most disappointing thing is that I'm in my peak years," Collymore said. "I'm at the club I've always wanted to be with but, as the weeks go by, I'm becoming an incidental figure. It is something that I do not find acceptable."

He is also concerned about his prospects of returning to the international scene. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, watched Villa's 3-0 victory against Everton on Monday, but Collymore played in only the second half. "I have taken a step backwards in the England reckoning," Collymore said. "It doesn't matter how well I played against Everton. Glenn will read that Collymore was on the bench.

"I was pretty confident I could get 20 goals or more this season but the less you are playing, the less goals you are going to score. I'm not the type of player to go knocking on doors but I'm disappointed. It's down to the manager and, at the end of the day, he's doing a good job for the club."

Faint praise, indeed. Gregory will invite Collymore into his office today and ask for an explanation from football's most tortured of souls. A friendly hand may be extended but, come the summer, Collymore could start counting his pay in pesetas.

Wilkinson compromise......49
Knight back in harness......49

## STAN COLLYMORE

**TRANSFERS**
4.1.91 Stafford Rangers to Crystal Palace, £100,000
20.11.92 Crystal Palace to Southend United, £100,000
5.7.93 Southend United to Nottingham Forest, £2 million
3.7.95 Nottingham Forest to Liverpool, £8.5 million
12.7.97 Liverpool to Aston Villa, £7 million

**GOALSCORING RECORD**
Crystal Palace: 25 games, 2 goals; Southend United: 33 games, 18 goals
Nottingham Forest: 78 games, 45 goals; Liverpool: 81 games, 35 goals
Aston Villa: 54 games, 15 goals; Overall: 271 games, 115 goals

**THE WORD ACCORDING TO STAN**

**On his style:**
"What would you rather see? Someone running around building a character for themselves based on fighting and being rough and kicking people, or a lazy git who'll get the ball and score an amazing goal?"
"The fees that I have gone for suggest that people want something different. If I can't find a platform to do that I'll keep plugging away until I do, whether that be in Division Four or Division Ten of the local park league."

**On his problems at Liverpool:**
"At Liverpool I sometimes felt I had to pretend to be somebody else. If I went out with the lads there, I felt I had to be like a Spice Boy or something to conform to that image."

**On his capabilities:**
"I hope it doesn't sound arrogant but I've never watched a forward do anything I don't think I'm capable of myself."

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1620

ACROSS
1 Country house; holiday home (5)
4 Strange; inquisitive (7)
8 (One's) utmost effort (5,4)
9 Free path to next round (3)
10 Holder for liquids; type of train (4)
11 Not touching alcohol (8)
13 Rather choose (6)
14 Thomas —, built Hampton Court (6)
17 Retaliatory act (8)
19 Plant, encrusts wet stones etc (4)
22 Having as maiden name (3)
23 Helping (towards) (9)
24 Feelings of admiration (7)
25 Drunk; firmly fastened (5)

DOWN
1 Manservant (5)
2 Inspiring affection (7)
3 Rod holding wheels (4)
4 Ingenious (6)
5 (In) turn (8)
6 Planet's path (5)
7 Mary —, Frankenstein author (7)
12 So-so (8)
13 Close colleague (7)
15 Sleeping noisily (7)
16 Attractive horseshoe (6)
18 Push against: newspapers (5)
20 Aroma (5)
21 Rudely brief (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1619
ACROSS: 1 Disc jockey 8 Muezzin 9 Pique 10 Bake 11 Headline 13 Choir 14 Tools 16 Bassanio 17 Hawk 20 Sloth 21 Terrier 22 Prima donna
DOWN: 1 Demob 2 Speak too soon 3 Jazz 4 Confer 5 Expedite 6 Equivocation 7 Aeneas 12 Preacher 13 Cubism 15 Victim 18 Karma 19 Grid

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Philippoussis, the big-hitting Australian, shows his service power during a five-set victory over the resolute Chang

# Australia looking to Rafter for home success

From Julian Muscat
Tennis Correspondent
in Melbourne

PAT RAFTER, the highest surviving seed in the Australian Open, maintained his quarter-final collision course with Tim Henman when he coasted into the third round by beating Mark Woodforde yesterday. Henman had earlier stood his ground by dispatching Sandon Stolle in five hard-fought sets.

Before a rumbustious centre-court audience, Rafter, seeded No 3, dispatched Woodforde 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 to raise Australia's hopes that he can take the title. Not for 23 years has a homespun talent won the season's opening grand-slam tournament.

He has two formidable hurdles to clear before he can entertain thoughts of a showdown with Henman. He must account for the in-form Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden, before a projected fourth-round tussle with his compatriot, Mark Philippoussis, a match which, according to local ticket touts, would generate record prices on the black market.

Henman's prospects of landing his first grand-slam title increased when Alex Corretja, seeded No 2, was humbled in four sets by Christian Ruud, a journeyman from Norway.

In the women's event, Venus Williams, seeded No 5, dismantled Asa Carlsson, of Sweden, for the loss of three games. However, Lindsay Davenport, seeded No 1, served notice of her own ambitions with an equally emphatic victory over Florencia Labat, of Argentina. Sam Smith, the sole British reprsentative in the women's draw, succumbed 6-4, 6-4 to Nicole Pratt, of Australia, after squandering several chances.

The drugs controversy surrounding Petr Korda, the defending men's champion, died down yesterday, but not before Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation, invited ridicule from the wider sporting community when he said: "I don't see that it has damaged the sport at all."

The two-session aggregate yesterday of more than 50,467 was the second record audience in three days.

Henman's win, page 46

# McHarg on the attack

## Christopher Irvine bemoans the sorry state of rugby union

Alastair McHarg, capped 42 times by Scotland, who played 14 years for London Scottish and later coached the side, yesterday summed up the proposed takeover of the club by Bristol and every other festering, sabre-rattling dispute in the wacky world of rugby union. "To me," he said, "it's a matter of supreme indifference."

What has caused a leading figure of Scotland and London Scottish rugby to turn his back on the sport is the same grievance the wider public shares for a game that has sullied itself at nearly every level. Who honestly cares for the spectacle of sporting anarchy?

Yesterday was typical of the inane, insane world of rugby union. Bristol's promised buy-out failed to emerge. Ken Scobie, the London Scottish president, doubted whether it ever would.

Today brings more madness when the Rugby Football Union switches battlegrounds from Five Nations Championship television revenues to political warring with the International Rugby Board. Yawn.

Across the rugby spectrum, internecine conflicts are keeping lawyers busy but boring spectators, sponsors and television executives senseless. For those who perceive a British League as a panacea to unite all the warring factions and transform the sport into a wealthy and glamorous feast to rival football, have been too busy squabbling to notice that rugby union's boat left dock at least two years ago. Then, the newly-professionalised game could have packaged and sold itself properly. It all looks too late now.

The World Cup is only eight months away, yet is anyone talking about it? While England and the Five Nations Committee indulged in their game of bluff and brinkmanship this week, did anyone stop to think about the enormous damage to a game many perceive as rotting away?

McHarg is not averse to the implosion theory. "Starting from scratch might be no bad thing because what we have now is something so utterly removed from what rugby was about that it's barely worth bothering with. If Scotland were playing a mile down the road, I'd not bother going," he said.

"And yet I watched an Armed Services game at Aldershot the other day which was totally uplifting. The standard was appalling, but these guys played to the best of their ability, got stuck in and slapped each other on the back afterwards.

"Camaraderie, brotherhood, togetherness, call it what you like, that's what's rugby's lost at the top level."

# Ponting stumped after bar brawl

By Michael Henderson
in Melbourne

RICKY PONTING, the Australia Test cricketer, is in hot water after being knocked out in a bar brawl in Sydney. Ponting was immediately dropped from Australia's one-day team and he will be charged officially under the Australian Cricket Board's (ACB) code of conduct.

"I'm very embarrassed. It's just that on occasions I drink too much and get myself into situations I don't intend to be in," Ponting said.

He admitted he had "overstepped the mark a couple of times", and vowed to reform. He needs to. His international career is at stake. The ACB has powers to fine or suspend Ponting, who ended up with a blackened eye in the brawl. Malcolm Speed, the ACB chief executive, said the incident was under investigation.

Ponting said he had no recollection of the episode, which occurred after England had beaten Australia in a one-day international match in the early hours of Monday. The 24-year-old Tasmanian batsman, who made his Test debut four years ago, was fined by the Australia team management after a fracas in a Calcutta nightclub last year.

On this occasion he was punished for breaking the 1.30am curfew imposed by the management after day-night games.

Ponting said that "everything was fine" at the club, and that he did not know who hit him. He would seek counselling, and promised to become "squeaky clean".

Gough's fast show, page 48

Ponting: counselling

COULD YOU GET TEN SOLDIERS ACROSS AFRICA, NOT JUST TEN ACROSS?




FIRST NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TEL (STD)
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